Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un at the Capella resort on Sentosa Island Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in Singapore.
AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

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Local

Trump, Kim Jong Un sign unspecified document

By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY, JOSH LEDERMAN and FOSTER KLUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SINGAPORE (AP)—President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un concluded an extraordinary summit Tuesday with lofty promises by the American president to take care of a "very dangerous problem" and Kim forecasting "major change for the world." They signed a document that Trump described as "pretty comprehensive," but he declined to describe it, saying the details would be revealed later.

The document signing followed a series of meetings at a luxury Singapore resort.

Meeting with staged ceremony on a Singapore island, Trump and Kim came together for a summit that seemed just unthinkable months ago, clasping hands in front of a row of alternating U.S. and North Korean flags, holding a one-on-one meeting, additional talks with advisers and a working lunch.

Throughout the summit that could chart the course for historic peace or raise the specter of a growing nuclear threat, both leaders expressed optimism. Kim called the sit-down a "good prelude for peace" and Trump pledged that "working together we will get it taken care of."

In advance of their private session, Trump predicted "tremendous success" while Kim said through an interpreter that "we have come here after overcoming" obstacles.

Aware that the eyes of the world were on a moment many people never expected to see, Kim said many of those watching would think it was a scene from a "science fiction movie."

In the run-up to the meeting, Trump had predicted the two men might strike a nuclear deal or forge a formal end to the Korean War in the course of a single meeting or over several days. But in the hours before the summit, the White House unexpectedly announced Trump would depart Singapore earlier than expected—Tuesday evening—raising questions about whether his aspirations for an ambitious outcome had been scaled back.

Giving voice to the anticipation felt around the world, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday he "hardly slept" before the summit. Moon and other officials watched the live broadcast of the summit before a South Korean Cabinet meeting in his presidential office

The meeting was the first between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader.

After meeting privately and with aides, Trump and Kim moved into the luncheon at a long flower-bedecked table. As they entered, Trump injected some levity to the day's extraordinary events, saying: "Getting a good picture everybody? So we look nice and handsome and thin? Perfect."

Then they dined on beef short rib confit along with sweet and sour crispy pork.

And as they emerged from the meal for a brief stroll together, Trump appeared to delight in showing his North Korean counterpart the interior of "The Beast," the famed U.S. presidential limousine known for its high-tech fortifications.

Critics of the summit leapt at the leaders' handshake and the moonlight stroll Kim took Monday night along the glittering Singapore waterfront, saying it was further evidence that Trump was helping legitimize Kim on the world stage as an equal of the U.S. president. Kim has been accused of horrific rights abuses against his people.

Trump responded to such commentary on Twitter, saying: "The fact that I am having a meeting is a major loss for the U.S., say the haters & losers." But he added "our hostages" are back home and testing, research and launches have stopped.

Trump also tweeted: "Meetings between staffs and representatives are going well and quickly ... but in the end, that doesn't matter. We will all know soon whether or not a real deal, unlike those of the past, can happen!"

The summit capped a dizzying few days of foreign policy activity for Trump, who shocked U.S. allies over the weekend by using a meeting in Canada of the Group of Seven industrialized economies to alienate America's closest friends in the West. Lashing out over trade practices, Trump lobbed insults at his G-7 host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trump left that summit early and, as he flew to Singapore, tweeted that he was yanking the U.S. out of the group's traditional closing statement.

The optimistic summit was a remarkable change in dynamics from less than a year ago, when Trump was threatening "fire and fury" against Kim, who in turn scorned the American president as a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard." Beyond the impact on both leaders' political fortunes, the summit could shape the fate of countless people—the citizens of impoverished North Korea, the tens of millions living in the shadow of the North's nuclear threat, and millions more worldwide.

Alluding to the North's concerns that giving up its nuclear weapons could surrender its primary deterrent to forced regime change, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters that the U.S. was prepared to take action to provide North Korea with "sufficient certainty" that denuclearization "is not something that ends badly for them."

He would not say whether that included the possibility of withdrawing U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula, but said the U.S. was "prepared to take what will be security assurances that are different, unique, than America's been willing to provide previously."

The North has faced crippling diplomatic and economic sanctions as it has advanced development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Pompeo held firm to Trump's position that sanctions will remain in place until North Korea denuclearizes—and said they would even increase if diplomatic discussions did not progress positively.

Experts believe the North is close to being able to target the entire U.S. mainland with its nuclear-armed missiles, and while there's deep skepticism that Kim will quickly give up those hard-won nukes, there's also some hope that diplomacy can replace the animosity between the U.S. and the North.

Missing female hiker is found

A 68-year-old woman who went hiking with her husband last Sunday and had been reported missing was found Monday morning at the Laderan Tanki near Radar in Marpi.

Derek Gersonde, spokesman of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, said the missing hiker was found at 9:50am by members of the DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit, assisted by a dog from the K9 Unit.

Emergency medical technicians first checked the hiker for injuries and then turned her over to her husband.

Gersonde said investigation showed that the couple, who are from Guam, started their hike in Marpi last Sunday at 3pm, and both tried to make it out before nightfall, but decided to stay for the night due to darkness.

Early the next morning, Monday, the couple began hiking back. The woman then felt weak and dehydrated. The husband went ahead to their car for water. When he returned, his wife was nowhere to be found. He called DPS 911 for help.

Gersonde said DFEMS received the 911 call about the missing hiker at 8:30am.

Gersonde said the husband led the search crew to where he last saw his wife. The search crew then searched the jungle and soon tracked her down. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pangelinan is *Pistang Pinoy* singing champ

Priscilla Pangelinan was named *Pistang Pinoy*'s singing competition champion last Sunday.

One of this year's *Pistang Pinoy* highlights was the competition featuring the CNMI's elderly. The only qualification to participate in the competition was to be 50 years or older.

Pangelinan won with her rendition of Celine Dion's *Think Twice.*

Pangelinan said she is a newbie to the *Pistang Pinoy* competition, but is a veteran in performing for large crowds, as she is a regular performer at the weekly Street Market.

"I started singing back in 2013 when my son died. He was a musician and then I continued what he loved…music became my therapy…I'm doing this for my son," she said.

As competition winner, Pangelinan won $300.

Coming in at second place was Bernie Dizon, who was awarded $200. Completing the Top 3 was Vernon Lane, who was awarded $150.

Pistang Pinoy also featured a dance competition following the singing contest. The competition was open to children, adults, and the elderly who wanted to showcase their talents and win a couple hundred dollars.

The first place winner was the dance group Little Peeps, which was awarded $500.

In second place was X-Force group, which was awarded $300; and the final winner was Reign Dance Crew, which was awarded $200. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

*On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While supplies last. Mirage G4 total price is $16,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $262.22 per month or $121 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods. Total deferred price is $15,733.20. Outlander Sport SEL total price is $23,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $344.07 per month or $158 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods. Total deferred price is $20,644.20.

US pro-cannabis group backs local pot bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The U.S. advocacy group Marijuana Policy Project has thrown its support behind Senate Bill 20-62 SS1, introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) to regulate cannabis use in the CNMI.

MPP, the largest group in the U.S. mainland pushing for marijuana reforms, is hoping to increase public support for non-coercive marijuana policies while also pushing for states to change or loosen its laws to either reduce or remove penalties for medicinal and non-medicinal use of cannabis.

» Cannabis bill goes back to the House committee

S.B. 20-62, however, goes back to the House Judicial and Governmental Operations committee, chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), as there are sections in the bill that pertains to taxing and other revenue generation, which must start at the lower chamber.

Blanco said he and his colleagues have heard many in the public push for the bill's passage but "I ask for your indulgence to allow the [JGO] committee to ensure proper language is inserted that is within the bounds of the law."

"I look forward to making the amendments and placing the bill back on the floor during the next [House] session. In the meantime, I still welcome input on your thoughts on the bill," he added.

MPP state policies director Karen O'Keefe, in a letter to the House JGO committee, cited six points on the impact of regulating marijuana for medical and adult use.

She said prohibition on cannabis has failed, just like what happened in the 1920s.

Possession and use of cannabis is illegal under the laws of the CNMI and in 41 other states in the mainland.

"Yet, this prohibition has not made cannabis disappear. In fact, despite the vast sums spent on hundreds of thousands or arrests made in the U.S. every year, prohibition hasn't stopped adults or youth from accessing cannabis," said O'Keefe. "When the federal government first effectively prohibited cannabis in 1937, relatively few Americans had even heard of it. By 2015, 44 percent of Americans admitted to having tried it, including three of the last four presidents."

O'Keefe said regulation proves to be better as several states has already implemented it. "As it became increasingly obvious that prohibition was not working, states began to choose a more sensible approach—taxing and regulating cannabis similar to alcohol."

Colorado and Washington were the first two states that taxed and regulated cannabis. Alaska and Oregon followed two years later, while California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada followed in 2016.

Vermont recently legalized home cultivation and possession of cannabis, but is now thinking of also taxing and regulating it.

O'Keefe pointed out that regulating cannabis has created jobs, with Colorado employing 38,000 people who are licensed to work directly in the new industry.

O'Keefe's other points said that regulation will protect cannabis consumers while improving public health; its use is considered safer compared to alcohol, tobacco, and prescription medicines; much of the opposition is solely based on myths and other misconceptions; and the bill would result in sensible, humane policies, and a well-regulated system.

Arago: Independence Day honors PH partners

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In honor of the relationship between the CNMI and the Filipino community, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago raise the Philippine flag together during the flag-raising ceremony yesterday in front of Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In celebration of the 120th Philippine Independence Day, government officials and Filipinos in the CNMI led by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago gathered at the Kanoa Resort early morning yesterday for the traditional flag-raising.

Among those who attended the flag-raising ceremony were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), House Speaker Rafael Demapan, (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan).

Most of the men were clad in the traditional Philippine attire called *barong tagalog,* while the women were in traditional Filipiniana.

Aside from the flag-raising, another highlight of the ceremony was the signing of Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Month proclamation.

The purpose of the proclamation was to recognize the contributions made by Filipinos and those of Filipino ancestry to the socio-economic as well as the cultural development of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proclamation also cited the special relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the Philippines, forged through years of close alliance and camaraderie.

"Thank you for calling the CNMI your home. Our historic friendship has been the foundation of our economic growth and development as a Commonwealth, and we hope to continue this progress moving forward together," said Torres.

According to Arago, the Independence Day celebration has grown into a collective commemoration that also honors Philippines' allies, partners, and friends.

"The CNMI, its government and its people, have embraced us [Filipinos] wholeheartedly because of our shared belief of peaceful coexistence. For more than 30 years that I have considered Saipan my second home, I can sincerely say that the CNMI and our Filipino community have become firm friends and partners. This beautiful and peaceful community has embraced and accepted us wholeheartedly," he said.

This year's Independence Day theme is "Kalayaan 2018: *Pagbabagong Ipinaglaban, Alay sa Masaganang Kinabukasan.*"

"Our offering for a progressive future defines our strength as Filipinos, rooted in our love of country and respect for others," said Arago.

Messages from Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine Consul Marciano de Borja, Philippine Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez, and Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Cayetano were read aloud at yesterday's ceremony.

Lease extension bill heads back to Senate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday—with amendments—the Senate bill that extends the maximum initial number of years for public land leases. That means the bill would have to go back to the Senate for the upper chamber to adopt the amendments before the measure can head to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' desk.

During yesterday's session on Capital Hill, the House voted 19-1 in support of Senate President Arnold Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35.

The bill extends from 25 years to 40 years the maximum number of years allowed for public land leases, with some amendments inserted by House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) and Vice Speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan)

Igitol's amendment adds to those qualified for an automatic 15-year lease extension upon the passage of the bill.

S.B. 20-35 was amended in the House to reflect that only schools, religious organizations, hotels, or golf courses on leased property may be amended to extend the existing lease term up to 40 years plus an additional 15-year extension, subject to negotiated new terms and consideration based on at least two new appraisals, instead of just one new appraisal as proposed.

Maratita wants S.B. 20-35 to direct the Department of Public Lands to make a leasing decision prior to the expiration of the lease and after public notice of intent to renew providing for public comment and public hearings commence. S.B. 20-35 already includes a provision that requires DPL to initiate negotiations when at least five years or less remain on the lease agreement.

The House adopted both amendments, but then met opposition when it came to passing S.B. 20-35 through Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan).

According to current law, the request for proposal, or RFP, process is not in effect until the Legislature declines negotiations. However, in S.B. 20-35, DPL may negotiate new terms and considerations without first publishing an RFP—which Barcinas opposed.

"Taking away the RFP process is not in the best interest of those of Northern Marianas descent," he said.

"Why are businesses afraid to go through an RFP process after a 40-year [lease agreement]? Regular contracts with the CNMI government goes through the RFP process," he said, adding that land is a scarce resource in the CNMI.

Through the RFP process, the CNMI government could weigh which proposal could reap the most returns, said Barcinas.

The House passed the bill with amendments after over three hours of discussions, with only Barcinas voting against.

Ex-PSS commissioner asks court to reconsider dismissal of her claims

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Public School System commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero has asked the federal court to reconsider its decision to dismiss her claims in the lawsuit she filed against the Board of Education and its members over her termination.

Deleon Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, asserted that the manifest errors of law in her case will make her suffer injustice.

Nicholas pointed out that Deleon Guerrero is entitled to due process as she has a "property interest" in her employment.

Similarly, Nicholas said, the BOE members' public statement against Deleon Guerrero also stigmatized her name, entitling her to due process of law.

Last May 30, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice Deleon Guerrero's two claims: violation of her due process rights and conspiracy to violate her due process rights.

Dismissal with prejudice means Deleon Guerrero can no longer re-file the claims. Manglona directed the clerk of court to close the case.

Citing U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Manglona said to plead a due process claim involving harm to one's reputation, a plaintiff must also plead a deprivation of a separate liberty or property interest and that the state has changed or terminated that constitutionally protected interest.

Accordingly, Deleon Guerrero cannot assert a due process claim based solely on her reputation, as it is not a constitutionally protected liberty or property interest, said Manglona in granting the motion to dismiss filed by BOE and its members.

Furthermore, Manglona said, the alleged harm to Deleon Guerrero's reputation does not satisfy the level of stigma that the state must inflict to bring a due process claim.

In Deleon Guerrero's motion for reconsideration on Monday, Nicholas said the judge's reliance only on Deleon Guerrero being an "at will" employee ignores the mandate that the plaintiff "shall be appointed by the BOE for a term of four years." This mandate, Nicholas said, is what gives Deleon Guerrero her property interest in her employment.

The lawyer said the fact that Deleon Guerrero was an "at will" employee does not take away her entitlements to the benefits of a "term of four years" of employment.

Nicholas said as a result of this public statement that Deleon Guerrero supposedly did not get along with BOE members, her employment was terminated.

Last March 30, Manglona remanded to the Superior Court Deleon Guerrero's two claims—wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Deleon Guerrero is suing the BOE and its members for terminating her as the PSS commissioner last October. She is demanding $350,000 in damages.

According to Deleon Guerrero, her termination was done in retaliation for her questioning BOE's micromanagement of PSS and her refusal of a request for an unlawful transfer of $175,000 to the board's account.

BOE has denied the allegations.

Pacific Chronic Disease Council takes aim at lowering NCD rates

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Representatives of member-nations of the Pacific Chronic Disease Council are on the island for a five-day learning session at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, with the ultimate goal of sharing information on curbing the rates of NCDs in the Pacific.

The conference began last Sunday with a pre-meeting session.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. public information officer Sami Birmingham-Babauta said, "[The PCDC] is a regional coalition that focuses on decreasing the burden of diabetes, hypertension, and other related NCDs for the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands."

Doctors and other health workers from American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia (the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Majuro and Ebeye), and Palau are taking part in the conference, together with CNMI representatives.

Each representative presented statistics and gave updates on how they are battling NCDs, especially diabetes. Pacific islanders are plagued by high diabetes rates that lead to heart diseases, blindness, and amputations.

Patrick S. Luces, Guam's PCDC chair in the Department of Public Health and Social Services, said programs to prevent NCDs would save patients from the costs of treating complications.

The Marshall Islands, during their presentation, said NCDs remain the leading cause of death and disability in the Marshall Islands. Last year alone, 182 people in Marshall Islands died due to diseases related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

Cardiovascular-disease deaths in the Marshall Islands increased from 162 in 2014 to 206 last year, while diabetes deaths dropped from 451 to 415 in the same period. Cancer deaths rose from 128 to 137 while the disease itself had a slight bump from 10 to 18.

The number of diabetes patients in Majuro is also on the rise, an increase of 18 percent from October 2016 to March this year. The latest number of patients now total over 2,400, compared to less than 2,100 almost two years ago.

Health officials in Majuro know the importance of reducing the leading causes of death in adults while at the same time preventing the youth from developing NCDs. Having a multi-sector group and collaboration would strengthen a strategic plan in combating NCDs.

RMI health officials had already established an NCD Coalition with four task groups and strengthened their community outreach programs that include home visits for disabled patients.

The learning sessions continued yesterday where they discussed process mapping of the Pacific healthcare systems and charting the course in preventing NCDs, while a panel discussion will also be held before the end of the morning session.

JON PEREZ
Representatives of member nations of the Pacific Chronic Disease Council talk about the challenges they face in dealing with non-communicable diseases in their respective communities on the second day of a five-day learning session at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Bio of Jackson patriarch to be presented to MARC

Dr. Arthur Anthony Jackson Sr. spent 30 years researching the life of his grandfather, Arthur William Jackson, and wrote his biography, which includes details of his life in Guam and the relationships he built here.

Jackson will present a copy of his book, *Biography of Arthur W. Jackson 1880-1961: An American Pioneer in Guam*, to the University of Guam's R.F.T. Micronesian Area Research Center on June 19 at 2pm on the second floor of the MARC offices at University of Guam.

"These pages will inform you of life during different eras of history. They will amuse you with the life experiences that evolved over multiple generations. They will keep you in suspense as you read about the traumatic events associated with the devastation brought on by war and the hope nurtured with the re-establishment of peace. They hold still, moments strewn across decades of time. They embrace emotions borne by those whose life experiences were raw and exposed," writes the author's niece, Dr. Lilli Ann Perez, in her foreword. "This text will add to Guam's genealogical data and to information on social supports, and surviving historical trauma."

The community is invited to the presentation to meet Jackson and learn more about the book and his journey of discovery while writing it.

Jackson will also take book orders at the presentation and will make the book available by "print-on-demand." After the presentation, the MARC will make a copy available in its collection for members of the community to access.

Jackson is a former faculty member of UOG and served as director of Financial Aid and for a brief period, as acting vice president of Student Life. He retired in the summer of 2003. ***(PR)***

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Evidentiary hearing on alleged missing suitcase, items

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI will hold an evidentiary hearing at the request of a man convicted over a large methamphetamine shipment, who is seeking the return of his suitcase and personal items that were allegedly seized by a federal agent from his hotel room on Saipan.

In the same order Monday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled in favor of the U.S. government over the $1,130 that was seized from Xi Huang during the same search in his hotel room in 2015.

In his motion to return property, Huang wants the U.S. government to return to him $1,130, a suitcase with personal clothing, and wallet that were taken from his hotel room at the time he was arrested on Dec. 4, 2015.

Subsequently, the U.S. government filed a motion for summary judgment, contending that it never seized the suitcase, wallet or clothing, and that the $1,130 was forfeited.

Huang said federal agents took his $1,130, 600 yuan, a Gucci travel bag, two cell phones, cell phone charger, shoes, khaki pants and shirts, a Gucci wallet, and hair trimmer.

One cell phone has already been returned to Huang.

The U.S. government then sought summary judgment on the grounds that the $1,130 was forfeited and that the other items were never seized at the time of Huang's arrest.

Huang claims that the Drug Enforcement Administration seized his suitcase and the personal effects inside it.

Huang also submitted a declaration that, while he was in custody in the hotel room, the agents took control of his luggage and personal property.

He stated that while he was in the Saipan jail, his attorney informed him that the DEA still had his personal items.

Huang said the $1,130 cash was not proceeds from a narcotics offense but was earned through legitimate work.

In response, the U.S. government submitted a declaration of DEA Task Force officer Ray Renguul, who stated that he was present during the search of Huang's room and that his "suitcase, wallet, and clothing were never seized by law enforcement."

In his declaration, DEA special agent Kirks F. Johns stated that he was present during the search and "except for a blue cellular flip-phone, four cell phone chargers, and $1,130, none of those items were, in fact, ever seized."

In her order, Manglona said in the face of competing declarations from Huang and the U.S. government as to whether the personal property was seized at the time of Huang's arrest, the court finds that there is a genuine dispute about a material fact.

"Accordingly, the motion for summary judgment as to this property is denied without prejudice and the court will hold an evidentiary hearing on the issue," Manglona said.

With respect to the $1,130 cash, Manglona said to challenge administrative forfeiture proceedings, a claimant must assert an interest by submitting a claim and giving a cost bond within 20 days of when the notice of seizure was published.

Failing to file a claim within that period means that "the property is abandoned as a matter of law and the forfeiture is uncontested," Manglona said.

Thus, the judge said, the government is "obligated to forfeit administratively the property" and no subsequent request for judicial adjudication of the forfeiture may be entertained.

Manglona said sufficient notice was provided to Huang.

Thus, she said, because Huang did not file a claim before the $1,130 was forfeited, he is not entitled to challenge the basis of the forfeiture in these proceedings.

"Accordingly, Huang has failed to demonstrate that there is a dispute of material fact as to whether he is entitled to the property, and the government's motion for summary judgment as to the $1,130 is granted," Manglona said.

Huang is currently serving 15 years and eight months in federal prison over the shipment of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $850,000.

Huang pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He was sentenced in August 2016.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from China resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs. of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers on Dec. 2, 2015.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the arrest of Huang and two co-defendants.

Writers' workshop at JKPL

On Saturday, June 23, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will host a writers' workshop from 1pm to 4pm. Learn more about writing, publishing, and selling your book. Walt Goodridge, the author of several books, will be leading the class. This year, teens participating in the Summer Reading Program can attend for free! Bring a laptop to the class. To sign up, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and see Emily at the front desk. For the latest news and events, visit the www.cnmilib.org. Call the library at 235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. ***(PR)***

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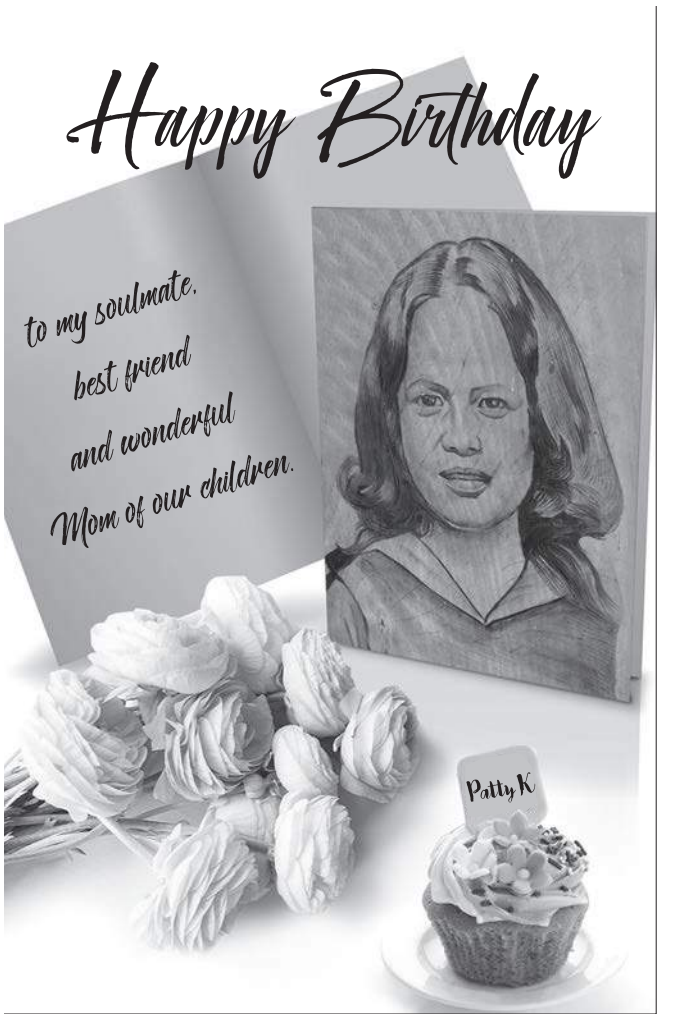

Rota lawmakers to Senate: Consider United proposal

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation urges the Senate to review and possibly support the idea of subsidizing a private airline to service Rota, which is in dire need of air transportation after United Airlines dropped the Rota route.

Delegation chair Sen. Steve Mesngon urged his fellow senators during a Senate session on Capital Hill last week for their "full support" of United Airlines' proposal to serve Rota.

The United proposal outlines possible scenarios, which would all require the CNMI government to subsidize the flights for up to $8 million annually, depending on how frequent the flights to Rota will be each week.

Mesngon said that, with the stoppage of air services to Rota after United severed ties with code-share partner Cape Air, the airline servicing Rota, the medical patients of the island have been "impacted by this situation."

Cape Air had its last flight to Rota on May 31, 2018.

"We have [already] seen an impact of what's going on," said Mesngon, reiterating his call for support of United's proposals. "Please support [the proposal] to bring back the service, or any kind of service, to the island of Rota."

Delegation member Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune* that the Rota flight proposals were a response to the Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) letter to the airline in early May 2018, requesting that they reconsider withdrawing from Rota.

"United Airlines' response by offering four different proposals or options to the CNMI may be a sign of hope or relief that could address our critical need [for] continued essential air service to the CNMI, most especially to [the] island of Rota, which [was hit the hardest] after United Airlines' recent termination of Cape Air's operation to the CNMI," she said.

United wants $1.1 million in annual support for twice weekly services to Rota, $2.2 million annually for four trips to Rota weekly, $4 million for two additional Guam-Saipan evening flights with a stop on Rota per trip, and $8 million for four weekly Guam-Saipan evening flights with a stop on Rota per trip.

"With this, it is incumbent that we identify the necessary resources, avenues, or actions in order to avail of United Airlines' continued air passenger services to the CNMI at the soonest," added Santos.

THE CNMI'S HOPE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI team departed yesterday morning, June 12, 2018, for the National Junior Academic Championship in Orlando, Florida. The competition itself will be on June 15 to 17. The team is joined by head coach Manuel Castro and assistant coach Eleonor Alejo. The five students that compose the team are: Sebastian Dearborn Bernardo, Deancey Adriel Chua, Lyndon Digno, Joanah Victoria Jimenez, and Keith Gester Villasin.

NMTI partners with MINA for Wing Beach cleanup

Sixteen students from the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, together with their Island Ecology instructor, Maureen Sebangiol, and Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance's Tasi Watch rangers, Delfin Camacho and Daniel Kaipat, participated in a cleanup at Wing Beach on June 8 in recognition of World Ocean Day.

Sebangiol invited MINA to her classroom the previous day to do a presentation on the work that MINA does, and the importance of community involvement in these efforts.

"These students are the first cohort working to achieve their diplomas through the NMTI's Adult Vocational Technical High School," said Sebangiol. "Getting them out of the classroom and on to the beach helps them understand how much difference each person doing the right thing to maintain our island's beauty can make."

Expressing surprise at the limited amount of trash found at Wing Beach, one student said, "It looks like the message that MINA is getting out to the community about keeping litter off the beaches is starting to sink in. If only those who use the beach pavilions on the weekends would get it, that would be real progress."

The students left the cleanup, vowing to stay committed and involved in the work of keeping the CNMI's "land and sea litter-free."

See MINA's Facebook page or contact minaoutreach@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to extend the lease of certain public land in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Tract No. 21670 containing an area of approximately 2,503 square meters, more or less, situated in Sasanhaya, Rota. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands office and website at www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. The Directors of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. are Charles E. Ewart – President, Kenneth R. Chandler – Executive Vice President, Timothy A. Duguid – Vice President, Ma. Julieta Milan – Treasurer, Leo A. Manlapaz – Secretary, and Margarita A. Olivares.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations. To extent it was negotiated, discussions were by Mr. Charles E. Ewart, Mr. Leo Manlapaz, Ms. Margarita Olivares, and Ms. Maria Kemp.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose to operate a bulk plant fuel storage facility.

The term of the proposed lease extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease extension is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Secretary, Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. As of the time of this publication, the Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Sasanhaya, Rota.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before 4:00 p.m. June 26, 2018 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA EKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku mannånå´i guini nutisia put i intensiona ni para u ekstendi atkilon nu i metton na tanu´ pupbliku giya Luta, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum pupblikun hinerå siña muna´na´hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu´ pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeni ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi na pettanesin infotmasion manisisita na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu´ pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract No. 21670 ni konsisisti kåsi 2,503 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Sasanhaya, giya Luta. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. I Direktot i Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. si Charles E. Ewart – i Presidenti, Kenneth R. Chandler – i Sigundu Eksakatibu na Presidenti, Timothy A. Duguid – Sigundu na Presidenti, Ma. Julieta Milan – Tresurâru, Leo A. Manlapaz – Sekritâriu/Sekritâria, yan Margarita A. Olivares.

iii. I Kontråtan Ekstension ni maproponi yan i Primet na Amendasion para Kontråtan Atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha. Para ekstendi ni manegosiu, i diskuti siha ginin as Siñot Charles E. Ewart, Siñot Leo Manlapaz, Siñorita Margarita Olivares, yan si Siñorita Maria Kemp.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha´ na rason para u ma-operate i fasilidåt pine'lu para i bulk plant fuel.

I tema nu i maproponi na ekstension atkilon para kinsi (15) ånus na tiempu.

I manmaproponi na atkilon gi kada´ såkkan durântin i tema nu i ekstension atkilon ni ma´estima gi pusentu nu i bålin fair market i propiedåt.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Ekstension yan i Primet na Amendasion para i Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli´ gi ufisinan i Sekritârian, Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku, gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokkui´ na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Kumu gi tiempun nu esti pupblikasion, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ti marisibi ni håfa na tinaguin inefresi siha ni para ma´atkila i suhetu na tanu´ pupbliku gi Sasanhaya, giya Luta.

vii. I Sekritârian Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi´ upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat alternative proposals ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di 4:00 p.m. gi Huniu 26, 2018 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL LÁÁLÁÁYIL ATKKILÓÓN REEL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe sóbweeyló atkkióónol falúw sángi faluweer toulap wóól Luuta, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng Ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka re siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol falúw yeel. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay, e bwáálló bwe Tract No. 21670 e bwáá bwe 2, 503 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Sasanhaya, Luuta. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor reel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri ghatchúw.

ii. Schóól atkkilóón nge Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. Ikkaaliir direkktoodil Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc, Charles E. Ewart – President, Kenneth R. Chandler – Executive Vice President, Timothy A. Duguid – Vice President, Ma. Julieta Milan —Treasurer, Leo A. Manlapaz – Sekkretóóriyo, me Margarita A. Olivares.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Lálåáyil me First Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge compliant ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL. Eyoor tool igha re ppwol fengál, mwaliili sángi Mr. Charles E. Ewart, Mr. Leo Manlapaz, Ms. Margarita A. Olivares, me Ms. Maria Kemp.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw reel schagh mwóghutughutúl leliyál bulk plant fuel.

Pommwol mángemángil lappal ráágh reel lálåáyil nge seigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol óbwóssul ghal atoll aar atkkilaay nge e lo reel percentage reel appraised fair market value reel falúw.

v. Pappidil Abwungubwungúl Extension yeel me First Amendment ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me bwulasiyol Sekkretóóriya, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. E bwal yoor pappid yeel online me www.dpl.gov.mp.

vi. Atol oral arongorong yeel, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón ngáli falúw iye e lo Sasanhaya, Luuta.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toualp re mmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi, ngáre pommw ikka re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil 4:00 p.m. Unnyo 26, 2018 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

Official says that Imperial Pacific pledges to complete NMI project

The owners of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. are fully committed to realizing the permanent casino resort the group has pledged to build on Saipan, said Lu Hou Tsai, senior vice president of operations for Imperial Pacific. He was speaking to GGRAsia on the sidelines of the recent Japan Gaming Congress 2018 in Tokyo.

Tsai

"This project will go through. We are working diligently to get the hotel up, because once the hotel is up, that will further assist us in increasing our cash flow," said Tsai.

Last summer the group said it was opening its permanent casino at Imperial Pacific Resort on July 6, 2017. The permanent resort's design also calls for 350 hotel rooms and 15 villas. The group has been looking for further investors to help complete the project.

"It's not conducive to business when you have customers staying at 'this hotel, that hotel,'" noted Tsai, referring to the present need to accommodate its existing gambling customers in other hotel properties.

"Right now, we have over 1,000 construction workers on site, and our construction company is a U.S.-based construction company," he added. He was alluding to previously-reported issues regarding the alleged use—by some previous contractors on the project—of imported labor non-compliant with local regulations.

Tsai noted, referring to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor: "OSHA has come in and given us the blessing, so we are 100 percent good to go as far as ramping up our construction efforts are concerned."

In late March, when Imperial Pacific announced its 2017 annual results to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the group said it was in talks with investors with the aim of completing construction of its casino resort on Saipan.

As a condition of its casino license, Imperial Pacific was required to complete an "initial gaming facility" at its Imperial Pacific Resort—including a minimum number of hotel rooms, a gaming area, food and beverage outlets, shops and meeting space—by no later than Aug. 31 this year.

Imperial Pacific said its annual report had been compiled on a "going concern basis" in the belief that the local regulator would grant an extension on the Aug. 31 construction deadline.

In its annual report filed on April 27, Imperial Pacific stated, referring to the local regulator: "As at the date of approval of these consolidated financial statements, the company has notified the Commonwealth Casino Commission of its intended application to extend the deadline to complete the initial gaming facility. The directors are of the opinion that the necessary approval will be granted for the deadline extension application."

The group added that, as of Dec. 31, 2017, "approximately $650 million" had been invested in the "design, consulting, engineering, construction materials and labor costs" for the Saipan resort. ***(GGRAsia)***

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USCIS lottery for temp increase in H-2B cap done

On May 31, 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services began receiving H-2B petitions under the temporary final rule increasing the numerical limit, or cap, on H-2B nonimmigrant visas by up to 15,000 additional visas through the end of fiscal year 2018.

In the first five business days of filing, USCIS received petitions for more beneficiaries than the number of H-2B visas available under the supplemental cap. Accordingly, regulations required USCIS to use a computer-generated selection process, commonly known as a lottery, to randomly select enough petitions to meet, but not exceed, the increased H-2B cap for fiscal year 2018. USCIS ran this lottery on June 7, 2018, and on June 11, 2018, began issuing notifications to the petitioners that were selected.

USCIS will reject and return unselected petitions with their filing fees, as well as any cap-subject petitions received after June 6, 2018.

Petitions accepted for processing will have a receipt date of June 11, 2018. Premium processing service for these petitions begins on that receipt date.

Only employers whose petitions were accepted will receive receipt notices.

A petition may be denied if USCIS discovers, after a petition has been filed, that an original approved temporary labor certification was not submitted with the petition in accordance with the Form I-129 instructions, or if a petitioner asks for more workers than were certified on the TLC.

USCIS will not refund fees for a petition that has been denied.

USCIS continues to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from, or not counted toward, the cap. These include petitions for:

Current H-2B workers in the United States seeking to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

Workers performing labor or services in the CNMI or Guam until Dec. 31, 2019.

U.S. businesses use the H-2B program to employ foreign workers for temporary nonagricultural jobs. Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1 to March 31) and 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 to Sept. 30).

The 15,000 additional visas for fiscal year 2018 are available only to American businesses which, among other requirements, attest that they will likely suffer irreparable harm without the ability to employ all the H-2B workers requested in their petition. ***(PR)***

$550K for Enewetak program

Domenech

WASHINGTON, D.C—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs released this week a $550,000 grant for the Enewetak Food and Agriculture Program.

According to Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs, the grant supports the people of Enewetak in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"[Interior] Secretary [Ryan] Zinke and I are pleased to provide continue assistance towards helping improve the quality of life for the Enewetak community," said Domenech. "Building resiliency of local food programs is critical to food and nutrition security in Enewetak and all island communities."

The Enewetak Food and Agriculture program was started in 1980 under the U.S. Department of Energy to assist the Enewetak community, whose population was evacuated to accommodate the U.S. nuclear testing program of the 1940s.

The funding is used to provide supplemental food for the people of Enewetak to grow and nurture local crops such as breadfruit, pandanus, and coconuts on the inhabited islands; conduct agricultural maintenance training; and transport food supplies.

Approximately 800 people live in Enewetak Atoll.

This week's funding supplements an initial amount of $1.6 million that was provided by the Office of Insular Affairs for Enewetak in October 2017. This funding is made available on an annual basis by Congress. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The lethal threat stalking Trump and Kim

By the 1950s, just years after U.S. B-29s dropped the first atomic bombs, Americans prepared for nuclear war. At the same time, the U.S. led the fight to prevent more countries from barging into the nuclear club.

Seven decades without a mushroom cloud doesn't eliminate that specter: The spread of these incredibly lethal arms to dangerous, unpredictable governments, and eventually perhaps to terror groups, adds powerful incentive to the Singapore summit of President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea has at least 60 bombs and likely can deliver them to the U.S.

Separately, Iran, now less constrained by a nuclear pact from which the U.S. has withdrawn, may re-energize its supposedly dormant nuke program. Iran also may be developing long-range missiles that could hit Western targets. Iran's foes, including Saudi Arabia, threaten a crash weapons program should Tehran attempt a breakout. Terrorist leaders yearn to buy a bomb or radioactive material for a dirty bomb. Imagine if Iran's West-loathing mullahs had a few weapons to spare.

In both cases the stakes eclipse the usual geopolitical tussles among nations over territory, reputation and clout. A nuclear onslaught against any nation could devastate its populace and devastate societal structures as basic as food supply, shelter and medical care. "We believed that the danger of nuclear annihilation had gone away" after the Cold War, former Defense Secretary William Perry tells The New York Times. "We've never been able to re-grasp that it's come back."

The fact that it has looms over this Trump-Kim meeting: You don't have to agree with Trump's hardball rhetoric to dismiss as wishful thinking the illusion of a nuclear-free world that President Barack Obama promoted. No such world can exist while humans hold the knowledge to build nuclear weapons and the intent to use them. That's not fatalism. That's realism.

America is indispensable in the fight to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. No other nation has the military, economic and diplomatic might—or the will—to squelch rogue nations or terror groups from acquiring or using nukes.

In the 1950s, the nuclear arms race spawned a pushback. President Dwight Eisenhower tried to forestall proliferation with his Atoms for Peace program: Give countries nuclear know-how for energy purposes but extract a pledge they won't develop nuclear weapons. Peaceful nuclear expertise spread, but so did weapons knowledge—to India, Israel, Pakistan.

There also have been victories: Libya scrapped its nuclear ambitions. Ukraine dismantled its Soviet-era arsenal. South Africa backtracked on its program.

Every president must decide how to modernize America's nuclear arsenal. Every president seeks to diminish the possibility that a nuke will be fired in anger or error. And every president deals with looming nuclear threats across the globe.

That threat stalks the Trump-Kim summit. It stalks Western strategy toward Iran. It stalks all of us.

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I'll start by saying you are getting the best deal from the greatest deal maker in the world! And by the way, the best president my country has ever had!
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When did Americans start bowing and scraping to VIPs?

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

For a long time, it was an article of faith that Americans wouldn't tolerate a system of preferential treatment among white men. Family name, title, class status, role in the clergy, property holdings—the theory was that no one deserved a bow and a scrape. You made your way on merit and fair-dealing.

Walt Whitman became a pop star for reminding his countrymen of the duty never to truckle: "Take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men."

Of course, this American model of egalitarianism was predicated entirely on the exclusion and oppression of people of color and women. But what if racism and misogyny are only part of the story of the failure of the egalitarian ideal? What if the American imperative has even failed among white men?

Slowly but surely, in the last few decades, Americans have come to accept a wholesale system of preferential treatment. Sometimes, in fact, it seems as though we normal law-abiding taxpayers—of every gender and stripe—have been charged with taking off our hats to those framed as far, far above our station. And what absurd figures we've genuflected to.

Jimmy A. Williams, an accused serial child abuser, was described as being "God" to an 11-year-old he allegedly raped. He was a horseback-riding coach. Harvey Weinstein, who was recently indicted on rape and sexual assault charges, was routinely called "the most powerful producer in Hollywood." Larry Nassar, the convicted child molester, was "the almighty and trusted gymnastics doctor."

Coaches, producers and doctors? I get that people want to win athletic competitions and Oscars, but the nation was founded on the rule of no curtsying to royalty. That a consensus ever decided guys like Weinstein deserved dispensations shows only contempt for the nation's first principles.

Just 40 years ago, in novels and sitcoms and popular songs, we were less craven. Bosses, for example, were considered not divine—but pathetic in their petty tyrannies. They were management. They were capital. They were squares. They existed to be subverted, opposed, overthrown. Think of Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" or Mr. Bledsoe in "Invisible Man." Or, for Pete's sake, Dolly Parton's 1980 hit, "Nine to Five."

Why would we possibly come to believe that just because someone was in charge, they deserved worship? Certainly not because of intrinsic merit. People like Williams and Weinstein and Nassar have a McStatus so dumb it makes the European nonsense of marquises and barons seem like the natural order. We classified monsters as VIPs.

The fact that we even use that daft acronym without irony is pathetic.

Once upon a time, first class on airplanes afforded the rich just a few extra treats; it was assumed Americans wouldn't stand for a pronounced distinction between haves and have-nots. Giant armchairs and flight attendants explicitly instructed to brook the whims of junior sadists with AmEx black cards and douchey Rolexes? And sweaty steerage for everyone else? No way.

But then we did stand for it. And before long, we stood aside for it. Very Important People coming through on this stupid acrylic red carpet! Clear the way!

In the movie "Jerry Maguire" in 1996, Renee Zellweger's character reflects on the devil's bargain airplane passengers had made when they put up with tiered seating. "First class, that's what's wrong," she tells her son, as she peers up the aisle from coach. "It used to be a better meal, now it's a better life."

A better life, the chief hallmark of which is you can act like a jackass. Pay for first class, and you can cut the line, dispense with courtesy, and get the rules waived. In Vegas casinos, we're told, VIPs can even demand illegal drugs and sex with impunity because they spend a lot of money. VIP culture certainly gave us Weinstein, who was known for his ritual cruelty to restaurant servers, assistants and colleagues almost as much as his reported habit of sexual assault.

We all bear responsibility for an abject social order built on our collective willingness to accommodate VIPs. We don't strike enough, and we don't boycott enough. We seem resigned to encroaching feudalism. Somehow we have concluded that airlines, for example, couldn't stay in business by treating all customers equally and humanely—and it's our shared duty to participate in a lunatic business model that treats passengers like cattle so that others can buy their way out of mistreatment to full human dignity.

I can suggest a modest antidote, and it's based on another system in air travel: TSA precheck.

Two years ago, I went in to be fingerprinted. A background check was run. My driver's license was scrutinized. The official didn't care how much money I had, or whether I was considered a god in my profession. He just wanted to know if I was a law-

See VIPs on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LITERARY NOOK

By RIZA RAMOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Riza Ramos is a registered nurse at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Hemodialysis Unit. She is the author of three books (in collaboration with Walt Goodridge), including Drinking Seawater, a memoir about Typhoon Soudelor.

While Waiting for my Dreams

While waiting,
for now I'll write a poem
or write a novel;
I'll write stories
some sorts and other.

While waiting,
for now I'll walk down
to the beach and watch the sun,
as it slowly sets
and kiss the ocean.

While waiting,
for now I'll plant some trees
up on the hill,
where the strong wind blows
the view's breathtaking.

While waiting,
for now I'll pray fervently;
for prayers concede barriers,
throw down walls
and move mountains.

While waiting,
for now I'll dance in the rain,
sing on stormy nights
to ease some pains.

While waiting,
for now I'll continue to dream,
for dreams won't stop in the rain;
though the skies are filled with clouds
or when the days are dim.

While waiting,
for now I'll be hoping,
for if I won't
then why am I waiting?

VIPs

From Page 11

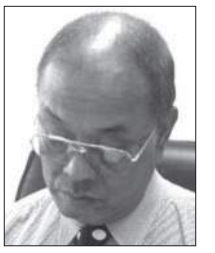
abiding, tax-paying citizen and good for the reasonable fee of $85 for five years. And because I was, I now get through security a little faster, a little more comfortably.

Imagine if it weren't high rollers, those in charge for one reason or another, who got the spiced almonds and smiles, but rank-and-file citizens, by virtue of the way we play by the rules. Imagine if, out of self-interest, some establishments gave a marginal advantage to people explicitly because they had no record of lawsuits, white-collar crime or restraining orders? With regular-people credentials, we could be prechecked back into full humanity.

What if, for once, the usual VIP crowd had to stand back for the regular Joes and Janes? That would be kinda baller. But I'd be very gracious about it.

Satbasion Mansabiu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Teteti i ichan gi pa`gu pueñge. Fresku na mañglu` ginen haya. Umafagcha` yan un` asuntu ni sige hu guadog pot para bai komprende. Hu kontinua mañge` pot no u diñguyu` i hinasoghu.

I attikulu: haf` taimanu na i mansabiun I Deni` mahatsa 80 pot sientu suetdun niha ya gi mismu tiempu ma-upus 14-mit-mas na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble (poverty income level and below)?

Hu akanteha manu na koyentura `nai man-mañoda` eskusu para umagulusune masaguaniye betsan niha. Lau kulan bisiu gi modun niha maespihan yabe para umasugun i karetan guaka! Poresu na sessu ma-upus dichu interes publiku.

Insuttu: I estorian kada nasion ni humatme Marianas klaru na todu chumage fuetsau kumepunu` kutturan natibu pot presisun niha.

I mas tailaye na cho`chu` i para tafan mafa` Español, Haliman, Japones yan Amerikanu. Pine`lun niha na siha ha` mantautau. Lau tantu de makepunu` i kuttura ti marepara i dichu pogse` ni sumustene natibu desde antigu na tiempu.

Guiya este i kutturan a`patte (sharing) gi halum tautau-ta. Inestablesen antigu na mañaina-ta pot satbasion todus. Motmut sensian gineftau gi haf` guinaha-ta desde kusechan gualu` yan kineni` tasi. Mas hana` fitme pogse` natibu ya hafalulun gi unu! Ayu mina` ma`ug hinanauta desde antigu na tiempu.

I kustumbren a`patte chumaba` para tafan abende trastes `sino kinisechan gualu` yan tasi. Poresu na sumen ma`ug i amesta gi entalu` natibu. Estague` satbasion-ta desde antes ya huñgan ha choma` inestablesen kometsiu giya hita. Mas guaha inapinitiye gi para ta asegura na disiente hinanau prohimu-ta ke para tafan mama` kepble.

Gi halum todu komunidan isla gi halum iya Pasifiku parehu kuttura guine na banda. Estague` makat mafunas sa` patte petmanente gi modun linala` tautau isla. Bien felis gi kareran todu gi ma-atisan un` mauleg na kustumbren tanu`. Estague` na megai na tautau hiyuñg ti siña makomprende haf` na motmut minagof yan kinententu gi tautau-ta siha lau maresisibe ayudun food stamps.

Dimoñu, kontodu food stamps in` patten ñanaihon gi halum familia! Parehu sabot neñkanu` maseha haf` unna setbe gi mafahan attikulun nesessidat.

Relihion: I kutturan relihion guine chumoneg mas sensian yine`ase, inagofli`e, a`patte yan gineftau gi bandan ayudu. Kada kume fatsu ha tagam ya hanana`lu tatte giya hita. Este na patte sumoyu` agradesiyun na sensian respetu gi tautau-ta siha.

Mañaina: I mañaina-ta pumulan diariu kinalamten todus. Siha primet ma-estro gi halum guma` familia ni mas muna fitme ineyag dottrinan katolismu. Mantai deskansu diariu pot sattun na inadahe gi famaguon niha. Ta onra pot megai `nai ha mattit siha para tamana` fan felis gi karera-ta.

Edukasion: Mientras i kuttura pot ayudu gi tropa i sisteman edukasion gaige gi unu. Kontat ke felis hinanau-mu independente konsige edukasion-mu. I kuttura finaisen hau para un` bira hau tatte ya un` fan ayuda gi haye numesessita ayudu. Ti sen anog este na defektu gi bandan edukasion pot tatnai ta pañgun kritikatmiente.

Birada: Umafulu` finana`guen guma (pot tropa) kontra edukasion gi unu. Ayudu gi prohimu-ta finana`guen kuttura, ayudu giya hagu namaisa i edukasion. Kada kumelibreyu` gi unu gatdunyu` gi otru.

Uttimoña umeyagyu` tumimon galaidehu. Ayu dispues `nai hutuñgu` manu propiu gi katkuet tiempu entre interes todu yan guahu mismu. Ma`ug na kutturan isla! Namagof i mauleg na sensian gineftau gi tautau siha.

Sahñge: Linala` tautau gi mandañkulu siha na tanu` kaiha parehu yan tano`ta. Buente pot taya` sensian inapinitiye `sino pot mampos man-achagu` mina` kada unu yan kuentasña gastu gi ha`aniña.

Hu chage lokue` gumuatdia todu sinsiyu gi betsaghu. Gigon gumeftau hau ya kara` pues hagu namaisa para un` fana` chinatsagamu. Cha`mu añgoñgoghu i atuñgo`mu sa` ti un` inayuda taimanu tautau isla.

Magahet na sumen sahñge kinalamten un` siuda kontra isla. Todu un` fana` dañkulu desde eskuela, hospitat, chalan, shopping mall, yan otru siha fasilidat. Lokue`, todu manchagu` `nai mangaige. Guihe ti miyas `nai makatkukula chinagu` lugat. Kontra ora!

Atkilon: I mapropopone para umana` 55 años atkilon tanu` publiku taya` sustansiau na benefisiu para i tautau tanu`. Dimas de in` ekstende mas probichosu `an in` itut papa` gi 25 años. Hana`e todu atmos banda tiempu umatan futtunan kontrata.

I anaku` na atkilon mas probichosu gi para man-atkila. Disbintaha gi gai tanu`. Kumu inna` lakadada` guaha kampu para interes todu atmos banda.

Sin Sustansia: Tumugtugagag si Raffy pot apas obligasion siha. Primera! Kau obligasion i 80 pot sientu na hatsadan suetdu `nai `inna` bula betsan miyu? Ya i mas 14-mit na empleau ni sumen baratu suetdun niha? I difirensia $30-mit pesus para hamyu kontra sinsiyu para empleau siha. Haf` mohon?

Demand the ball

By KAY COLES JAMES
The Heritage Foundation

Kay Coles James is president of The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

Anyone who's ever attended a graduation ceremony knows the commencement speaker faces a very special challenge: Be inspiring. Use soaring rhetoric. And say something that may echo for years after.

This commencement season is no exception, but one of the best pieces of advice delivered so far was a bit more blunt: "Demand the ball."

If you haven't heard Abby Wambach's address to Barnard College graduates, do yourself a favor and look it up. You may think this a surprising source from an unusual location, but I'd encourage you to watch the video and hear the soccer legend deliver her impassioned words.

"Demand the ball" is a lesson that Wambach learned from another soccer legend, Michelle Akers. Wambach recalled how, as a teenager, she got a chance to play a scrimmage match with Akers, whom she described as "one of my heroes."

For most of the match, Akers was focused on coaching Wambach and her teammates. But then she realized her team was in danger of losing, and she immediately shifted gears.

They were three points down. "In that moment, a light switched on inside of her," Wambach said.

"She ran back to her own goalkeeper, stood one yard away from her, and screamed: Give. Me. The. Ball." She got it, dribbled through Abby's entire team, and scored.

Then Akers did it again—demanded the ball, dribbled through the team, and scored.

Then she did it a third time.

Wambach's point, of course, is that there are moments in our lives when it's all-or-nothing time. When we have to stop hedging our bets. When we have to speak firmly, act clearly—and execute.

Think of your heroes. Chances are, you admire them in large measure because they did the same thing. At some key moment, they stepped forward. And with a spirit of courage and conviction, they got the job done.

It could be Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on a segregated public bus, or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. launching his courageous campaign against the shameful racism of the Jim Crow era.

It could be President Ronald Reagan standing at the Brandenburg Gate and—against the advice of many advisers—challenging Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall!"

Or it could be Ambassador Faith Whittlesey, who devoted her courageous career to the defense of our nation and the blessing of life – and who encouraged me to demand the ball when I first arrived in Washington.

There are many other figures you could probably name. Some of them are famous, but many aren't. We all have our own personal heroes.

You know who I mean. Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends and colleagues. People who, when circumstances demand it, say figuratively, if not literally, "Give. Me. The. Ball."

That's part of the greatness of America. Men and women, striving to do what's right, day after day, no matter who's looking.

In fact, it's precisely this grit that made America possible. Think back to the Founding Fathers and ask yourselves: What was their quest for independence but a way of demanding the ball? They could have taken the easy way out and acquiesced to King George III. But they didn't. They stepped up. They didn't ask for liberty. They took it.

It was hard, no question about that. It took more than a declaration—it took a long and bloody war. But they put their lives and fortunes on the line, and many of them paid an enormous price.

But don't assume that heroism goes only to larger-than-life figures. It goes to all who refuse to lose. To all who are willing to jump into the breach. And to those who do what it takes to win.

So if you want to make your community, your state, your nation, and your world a better place, don't just sit there and complain. Stand up and say, "Give me the ball."

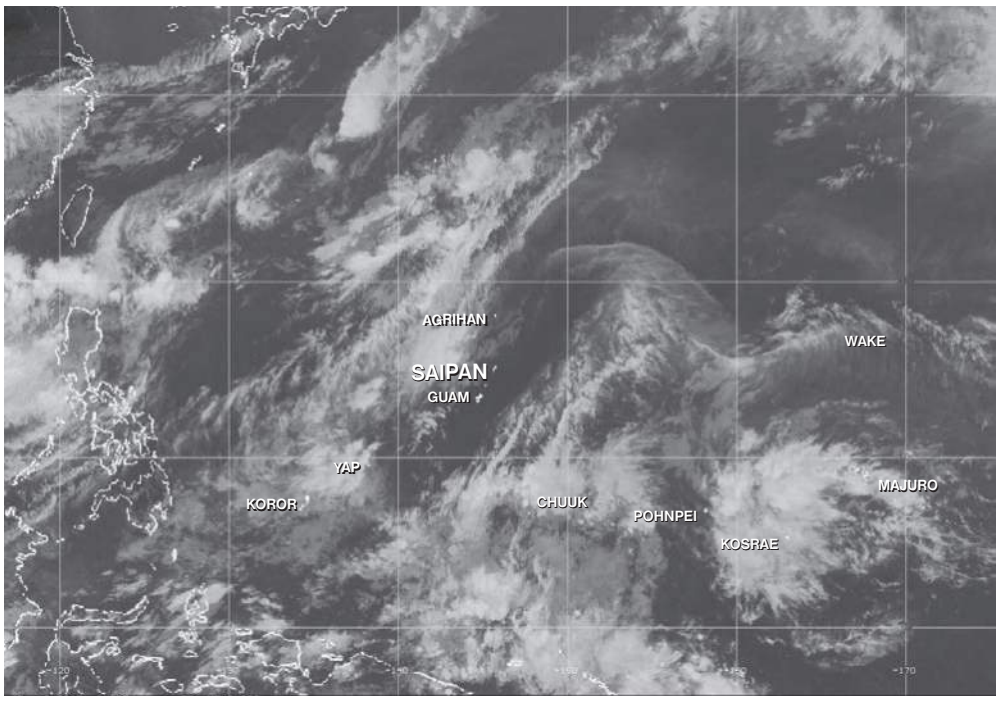
And then run with it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:54 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite data shows partly cloudy skies over the Marianas with extensive cloudiness just west of the waters. Isolated showers and winds prevail across the region. Buoy readings show seas between 2 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 50°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 66°
Hong Kong	Rain	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
New York	Showers	80° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	72° / 63°
Rome	Thunderstorm	75° / 61°
Salem	Thunderstorm	85° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:51 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01
6:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.06
1:26 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.50
8:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:59 AM	6:10 PM	-
Thursday	5:56 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	6:58 AM	8:17 PM	-
Saturday	8:01 AM	9:17 PM	-
Sunday	9:05 AM	10:13 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

First VR images of CNMI at Shanghai travel fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined tourism partners Brighten Travel (formerly Dynasty Holidays), Century Tours, and Top Development Inc. at the 2018 Shanghai World Travel Fair on May 24-27, 2018, placing the Marianas before over 50,000 visitors to the fair.

The MVA joined 230 exhibitors from 53 other countries and regions, which was also joined by 370 travel trade industry buyers, 11,925 travel trade visitors, and 43,820 members of the public, according to SWTF organizers.

In addition to have an informational booth to meet with buyers and the public, answer questions, and distribute promotional material , the MVA also offered virtual reality sightseeing of the Marianas for the first time at an exhibition in China.

"The SWTF is the second largest travel show in Shanghai and having the Marianas present at this important event is critical for brand awareness and destination familiarity," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The Shanghai region presents enormous opportunities for the Marianas as it is considered the economic and financial center of China. We thank our partners for joining our booth this year. As the MVA strives to promote the Marianas abroad, we will continue to participate in travel trade shows and other industry forums that allow us to advertise our islands to the world."

The Marianas also received media coverage through Concepcion's interview with Shanghai Interactive Television Co., the largest digital cable network content integrator in China; iQIYI, one of the largest online video sites in China with over 500 million monthly active users; and trade magazines *Sohu Travel* and *HuiZhong Travel*. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion is interviewed by media at the Shanghai World Travel Fair on May 24-27, 2018, in China. MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Brighten Travel, Century Tours, and Top Development Inc. jointly promoted the Marianas at the Shanghai World Travel Fair on May 24-27, 2018, in China. MVA

Virtual reality images of the Marianas were featured for the first time in China at the Shanghai World Travel Fair on May 24-27, 2018. The experience was made available by the Marianas Visitors Authority to over 50,000 attendees of the fair. MVA

Register for NMC fall semester tomorrow

The Northern Marianas College is inviting individuals who are interested in furthering their education or advancing their professional careers to attend its information session scheduled tomorrow, June 14, 2018. Attendees will be able to register for the college's Fall 2018 Semester.

The information session is open to all community members and especially to recent high school graduates. The session, which will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in NMC's Cafe Proa at the college's As Terlaje campus, will also allow participants to register for classes immediately after the event.

The topics that will be discussed include the college's degree programs, financial aid, and other initiatives.

Participants will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall semester, a savings of about $75.

NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, emailoar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-011

GUALO RAI WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV and PSV, flush hydrants, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-011, Gualo Rai Water Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 10, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 25, 2018** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Associate Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Credits) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The Credits are available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office and website. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate Credits. NMHC may allocate **$1,031,250.00** in Credits for the 2018 program year.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 10, 2018**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **August 27, 2018**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm September 10, 2018**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October/November 2018** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits thirty (30) days following the October/November 2018 Board of Directors Meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

Business

Report describes Dubai real estate as money-laundering haven

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—War profiteers, terror financiers and drug traffickers sanctioned by the U.S. in recent years have used Dubai's real-estate market as a haven for their assets, a new report released Tuesday alleges.

The report by the Washington-based Center for Advanced Defense Studies, relying on leaked property data from the city-state, offers evidence to support the long-whispered rumors about Dubai's real-estate boom. It identifies some $100 million in suspicious purchases of apartments and villas across the city of skyscrapers in the United Arab Emirates, where foreign ownership fuels construction that now outpaces local demand.

The government-run Dubai Media Office said it could not comment on the report.

For its part, the center known by the acronym C4ADS said Dubai has a "high-end luxury real estate market and lax regulatory environment prizing secrecy and anonymity above all else." That comes as the U.S. already warns that Dubai's economic free zones and trade in gold and diamonds poses a risk.

AP
In this Sept. 22, 2015 file photo, laborers work at a construction site at the Palm Jumeirah, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

"The permissive nature of this environment has global security implications far beyond the sands of the UAE," the center said in its report. "In an interconnected global economy with low barriers impeding the movement of funds, a single point of weakness in the regulatory system can empower and enable a range of global illicit actors."

The properties in question include million-dollar villas on the fronds of the man-made Palm Jumeirah archipelago to an apartment in the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. Others appear to be one-bedroom apartments in more-affordable neighborhoods in Dubai, the UAE's biggest city.

Among the highest-profile individuals named in the report is Rami Makhlouf, a cousin of embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad and one of that country's wealthiest businessmen. The U.S. has sanctioned Makhlouf, who owns the largest mobile phone carrier Syriatel, for using "intimidation and his close ties to the Assad regime to obtain improper financial advantages at the expense of ordinary Syrians."

Makhlouf and his brother, also sanctioned by the U.S., own real estate on the Palm Jumeirah, according to the report. They also have ties to two UAE-based free-zone companies. The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms led from oil-rich Abu Dhabi, has opposed Assad in his country's yearslong war.

The UAE also opposes Hezbollah, the Lebanese political party and militia group backed by Iran. However, C4ADS' report identified at least one property directly linked to Lebanese businessmen Kamel and Issam Amhaz, who the U.S. sanctioned in 2014 for helping Hezbollah "covertly purchase sophisticated electronics" for military drones. The report identified another nearly $70 million in Dubai properties owned by two other shareholders in Amhaz's sanctioned firms.

Separately, the report identified some $21 million in real estate still held by individuals associated with the Altaf Khanani money laundering organization, a Pakistani ring that aided drug traffickers and Islamic extremists like al-Qaida through its currency exchange houses.

The report identified Dubai properties owned by Hassein Eduardo Figueroa Gomez, a Mexican national indicted in the U.S. for importing mass quantities of chemicals needed to make methamphetamine. It also identified properties owned by two Iranians previously sanctioned for their work on Iran's missile program.

Dubai, an Arabian Peninsula entrepot, long has been a favorite port of call for those skirting the law. Gold smuggling into India served as one of the emirate's most lucrative trades for the decades after the pearling industry collapsed. Guns, drugs and other illicit cargo also moved through the city-state.

Legal pimp for Nevada lawmaker? He faces anti-brothel effort

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP)—A state marketed as a place where people can indulge in all manner of sins is confronting its status as the only place in America where you can legally pay someone for sex.

A coalition of religious groups and anti-sex trafficking activists has launched referendums to ban brothels in two of the seven Nevada counties where they're legally operating. The effort dovetails with a campaign by the state's most famous pimp for a seat in the state Legislature.

Dennis Hof, who has half a dozen brothels operating in the two counties and starred in the HBO adult reality series "Cathouse," is challenging incumbent Assembly member James Oscarson of Pahrump in a Republican primary Tuesday.

Hof said Nevada "is the last of the live-and-let-live states" and was built on "gaming, liquor, girls and mining."

"It's awful that people would come in and try to change that culture, that they want to inflict their moral values on the rest of us," he said.

Karen Cohen, who lives in a county with four legal brothels, called it "an embarrassment that we are one of the very few spots in the very United States that tolerates legal prostitution."

The Pahrump resident is involved in a push to get two anti-brothel measures on the November ballot.

Brothels, which are illegal in the counties that contain Las Vegas and Reno, harken back to Nevada's days as a mining territory about 150 years ago. Brothels were illegal but tolerated in some areas until 1971, when the Mustang Ranch near Reno became the first legal brothel.

It led to a movement that allowed counties with populations of 700,000 people or fewer to decide whether to legalize prostitution in licensed facilities. Outside of bordellos, prostitution remains illegal. Some brothels offer free limo rides from Las Vegas, offering to pick up guests from their Strip hotels.

Today, about 20 brothels operate in the state, mostly in rural areas. The state doesn't publicize how many are open, and most owners keep a much lower profile than Hof, who wrote a book titled "The Art of the Pimp" and has dubbed himself the "Trump of Pahrump."

Hof was also in the limelight in 2015, when former NBA player Lamar Odom was found unconscious at Hof's Love Ranch brothel in Crystal, Nevada, after a four-day, $75,000 stay.

The Love Ranch, about an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas through the desert, looks like a large single-story home with some statues and pink bicycles out front, along with a sign for "Dennis Hof's Love Ranch Cathouse," advertising a gift shop, full bar and "no sex required."

Guests ring the front bell and are escorted into wingback chairs in the parlor, while the women in the house slip into their heels and assemble in a lineup to be chosen.

Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow suffers heart attack

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry Kudlow, President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, suffered a "very mild" heart attack and was being treated at a military hospital, the White House said Monday.

Kudlow was in good condition at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement. She said Kudlow was doing well and that doctors expect him to make a "full and speedy recovery."

News of Kudlow's illness was broken by Trump himself just minutes before he met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore. "Our Great Larry Kudlow, who has been working so hard on trade and the economy, has just suffered a heart attack," Trump tweeted.

Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, had joined Trump last week in Canada for what became a contentious meeting of the Group of Seven world leaders. The meeting was shadowed by the Trump administration's escalation of rhetoric on trade and tariffs and splintered shortly after the president left Quebec and tweeted he was pulling back his approval of a joint statement by the group.

Kudlow appeared Sunday on CNN to back up Trump's complaint that he had been blindsided by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's criticism of his tariff threats at a summit-ending news conference.

Trump's choice of Kudlow to be his top economic aide elevated the influence of a longtime fixture on the business news network CNBC. He previously served in the Reagan administration and emerged as a leading evangelist for tax cuts and smaller government.

The famously pinstripe-suited Kudlow succeeded Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left the post in a dispute over Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

With Trump's tax cuts already being implemented, Kudlow has been advising a president who pushed to tax foreign imports—a policy Kudlow personally opposes. Kudlow said he is "in accord" with Trump's agenda and his team at the White House would help implement the policies set by the president.

After working in President Ronald Reagan's administration, Kudlow moved to Wall Street and, though he never completed a master's program in economics and policy at Princeton University, served as chief economist at Bear Stearns. He left that position in the early 1990s to treat an addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Kudlow soon settled comfortably into the world of political and economic commentary, working at the conservative magazine National Review and becoming a host of CNBC shows beginning in 2001. He was a CNBC contributor before returning to the White House this year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,322.31	2,782.00	7,659.93
+5.78	+2.97	+14.41
+.023%	+0.11%	+0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3150	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8458	Russian Ruble	62.7483
British Pound	0.7490	Indian Rupee	67.6252	Singapore Dollar	1.3352
Canadian Dollar	1.3007	Japanese Yen	110.3470	South Korean Won	1055.30
Chinese Yuan	6.3070	Malaysian Ringgit	3.9462	Swiss Franc	0.9875
Euro	0.8501	New Zealand Dollar	1.4212	Taiwan Dollar	29.3607
		Philippine Peso	52.0563	Thailand Baht	32.0375

Nation

Some lava evacuees may return to homes during 'stable' flow

HONOLULU (AP)—Officials on Hawaii's Big Island let some people back into their homes and scaled down emergency operations Monday as lava flowed into the ocean on a path that wasn't threatening new areas.

"We've pretty much thrown everything at this event" since a series of lava fissures began emerging from cracks in neighborhood last month, Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency Administrator Talmadge Magno said Monday. "Some aspects of it can kind of start to scale down as the volcano somewhat runs into a stable situation."

His definition of stable means that lava continues to flow along a path toward the ocean that isn't threatening new areas. It was flowing north and then east toward a community the lava wiped out last week.

Officials are transitioning to recovery efforts, with help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is starting to do damage assessments, Magno said.

Lava has destroyed more than 600 homes.

There was "not a lot of change" to the lava flow, said Janet Babb, a geologist with the USGS' Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

Lava was shooting into the sky from one vent and there was "weak" activity at two other fissures, which weren't producing much of a flow and not advancing very far, Babb said.

It's possible a new fissure will open or vigorous flows could emerge from vents that have been inactive. Magno said additional workers can be called in if conditions change.

In the meantime, fewer workers are needed to staff a 24-hour operations center and officials are reducing checkpoints, Magno said. Half of the residents of a subdivision that had been ordered to evacuate after a fissure opened there on May 3 were being allowed to return starting last week. Only residents are allowed there.

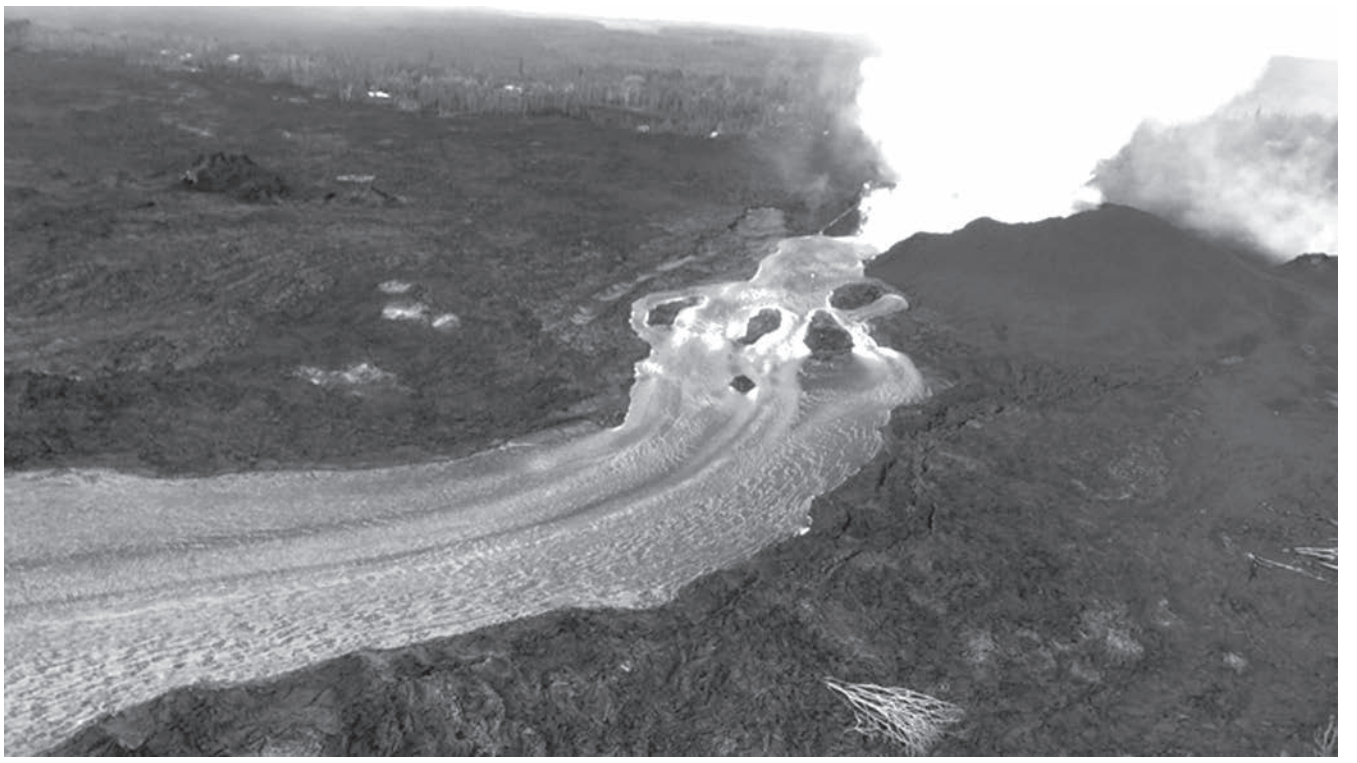
The other half of the residents in a more vulnerable area are allowed back during the day if conditions are safe.

At Kilauea's summit, there continues to be explosions that shoot plumes of ash into the sky. There were two small blasts Monday, including one after a magnitude-5.4 earthquake, scientists said.

A National Weather Service radar unit has been helping provide data about the heights of the ash plumes and the direction of ash fall. But the unit has been broken since Thursday. A part for repairs was expected soon, said Robert Ballard, science and operations officer for the weather service in Honolulu.

Ash expelled during explosions may cause poor visibility and slippery conditions for drivers.

Another ongoing hazard comes from lava meeting the ocean. Scientists warn against venturing too close to where the lava is entering the ocean, saying it could expose people to dangers from flying debris.



AP

In this Sunday, June 10, 2018 photo from the U.S. Geological Survey, fissure 8 below Kilauea Volcano continues to erupt vigorously with lava streaming through a channel that reaches the ocean at Kapoho Bay on the island of Hawaii .

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman holding 4 kids hostage in Florida standoff

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A man who police say shot an officer then barricaded himself in an apartment with four children was being urged Monday to release the hostages and peacefully end a standoff that had lasted more than 12 hours. Police negotiators have communicated with suspect Gary Lindsey five times since the standoff at an apartment started around midnight Sunday, Chief John Mina said at a news conference. "We are urging him to release the children and let this come to a peaceful resolution," Mina said. The children with Lindsey range in age from 1 to 11. Some of them are Lindsey's children and some belong to his girlfriend. "Our main concern is the safety of the children in that apartment," Mina said. Officers were called to the apartment by his girlfriend because of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving, the officers were fired upon, and Officer Kevin Valencia was shot. An officer was able to return fire, the police chief said. Valencia was expected to survive but had "very significant injuries," Mina said. Valencia is in his late 20s and has been with the police department since 2016, Mina said.

Coroner IDs 4 family members killed in Wisconsin plane crash

MONROE, Wis. (AP)—Authorities have released the names of four family members killed in a small plane crash in southern Wisconsin. Green County Coroner Jody Makos on Monday identified the victims as the pilot, 81-year-old Colleen Deininger; her daughter, 53-year-old Melissa Deininger-Dickman; and two grandchildren, 17-year-old Emmarose Dickman and 13-year-old Alex Dickman, all of Kenosha. Authorities say the single-engine Cessna 182T had left the Kenosha Regional Airport and was flying to Monroe when it crashed Sunday about a mile north of the Monroe Municipal Airport. Family members say the group planned to celebrate a graduation that afternoon. All four died at the scene. The plane crashed in a field and hit some trees. Firefighters put out a fire at the scene. Federal officials are investigating along with the Green County sheriff's office.

2 children die, 3rd hurt in southern Michigan camper fire

BRONSON, Mich. (AP)—Authorities say two children, ages 2 and 5, have died after the camper they were in caught fire in southern Michigan. The Branch County Sheriff's Office says the fire started around 10:30 a.m. Monday at a residence in Bronson, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) southwest of Detroit. WOOD-TV reports a third child—a 7-year-old—was injured. Authorities say the three children were alone in the camper, which was a fifth-wheel model, when the fire started. The cause of the blaze is under investigation. The children's names haven't been released. Their relationship to one another wasn't immediately clear.

Sessions excludes domestic, gang violence from asylum claims

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Immigration judges generally cannot consider domestic and gang violence as grounds for asylum, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday in a ruling that could affect large numbers of Central Americans who have increasingly turned to the United States for protection.

"Generally, claims by aliens pertaining to domestic violence or gang violence perpetrated by non-government actors will not qualify for asylum," Sessions wrote in 31-page decision. "The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes—such as domestic violence or gang violence—or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim."

The widely expected move overruled a Board of Immigration Appeals decision in 2016 that gave asylum status to a woman from El Salvador who fled her husband. Sessions reopened the case for his review in March as the administration stepped up criticism of asylum practices.

Sessions took aim at one of five categories to qualify for asylum - persecution for membership in a social group - calling it "inherently ambiguous." The other categories are for race, religion, nationality and political affiliation.

Domestic violence is a "particularly difficult crime to prevent and prosecute, even in the United States," Sessions wrote, but its prevalence in El Salvador doesn't mean that its government was unwilling or unable to protect victims any less so than the United States.

Sessions said the woman obtained restraining orders against her husband and had him arrested at least once.

"No country provides its citizens with complete security from private criminal activity, and perfect protection is not required," he wrote.

The government does not say how many asylum claims are for domestic or gang violence but their advocates said there could be tens of thousands of domestic violence cases in the current immigration court backlog.

Karen Musalo, co-counsel for the Salvadoran woman and a professor at University of California Hastings College of Law, said the decision could undermine claims of women suffering violence throughout the world, including sex trafficking.

"This is not just about domestic violence, or El Salvador, or gangs," she said. "This is the attorney general trying to yank us back to the dark ages of rights for women."

Sessions sent the case back to an immigration judge, whose ruling can be appealed to the Justice Department's Board of Immigration Appeals and then to a federal appeals court, Musalo said. She anticipates other cases in the pipeline may reach the appeals court first.

despicable and should be immediately reversed."

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, said the decision was "despicable and should be immediately reversed." And 15 former immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members signed a letter calling Sessions' decision "an affront to the rule of law."

"For reasons understood only by himself, the Attorney General today erased an important legal development that was universally agreed to be correct," the former judges wrote. "Today we are deeply disappointed that our country will no longer offer legal protection to women seeking refuge from terrible forms of domestic violence from which their home countries are unable or unwilling to protect them."

The decision came hours after Sessions' latest criticism on the asylum system in which he and other administration officials consider rife with abuse. The cases can take years to resolve in backlogged immigration courts that Sessions oversees and applicants often are released on bond in the meantime.

An administration official said last month that the backlog of asylum cases topped 300,000, nearly half the total backlog. Despite President Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration, border arrests topped 50,000 for a third straight month in May and lines of asylum seekers have grown at U.S. crossings with Mexico.

"Saying a few simple words—claiming a fear of return—is now transforming a straightforward arrest for illegal entry and immediate return into a prolonged legal process, where an alien may be released from custody into the United States and possibly never show up for an immigration hearing," Sessions said at a training event for immigration judges. "This is a large part of what has been accurately called 'catch and release.'"

Asia

Trump and Kim shake hands in scene complex as their rivalry

SINGAPORE (AP)—Donald Trump approached from the right, striding down the long portico at the colonial-era Singapore resort. Kim Jong Un, dressed in his familiar Mao suit, emerged from the left. They met in the middle, on a red carpet, dozens of cameras recording their every move as the world watched.

And counted.

Thirteen seconds. That's how long the American and North Korean leaders shook hands at the start of their summit Tuesday. The length of the contact, their facial expressions and body language, the stunning backdrop of interlocked national flags — all of it was instantly analyzed, criticized and marveled at in tweets and commentary in South Korea, the United States and beyond.

AP

President Donald Trump meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sentosa Island, Tuesday, June 12, 2018, in Singapore.

Kim may have best summed up the surreal quality of what was happening when he said that many of those watching will think it's a scene from a "science fiction movie."

South Koreans applauded in a train station as they watched; the South Korean president grinned broadly; one official compared the summit, favorably, to the birth of his daughter. On the flipside, critics said the welcome Trump was giving Kim in Singapore would legitimize one of the world's worst human rights offenders.

It was a single, quintessentially human moment — a greeting, a welcome, a start of a relationship — but the reaction to the handshake was as complicated as the standoff that the two countries these men represent have been locked in for seven decades now.

There was shock, relief, worry, sometimes simultaneously, as the world watched Trump and Kim — who were insulting each other's mental and physical prowess and threatening nuclear war just a few months ago — shaking hands and smiling.

Trump put his hand out first, followed by Kim as they strode toward each other. Trump grasped Kim's right arm as they shook, and then, later, took ahold of Kim's left arm as they turned to face the cameras and the world, both their expressions momentarily deadening before they turned to face each other again, and smiled.

The backdrop was almost as shocking as the warmth of the handshake — a row of the two nations' flags displayed side-by-side at the entrance to the Singapore resort that's hosting their summit.

Both Koreas have long demonized the other's national flag. It's illegal to show the North Korean flag in the South. North Korea's anti-U.S. propaganda dates to the war and regularly shows North Korean soldiers bayonetting the U.S. flag.

However, many South Koreans rushed to express their awe of Tuesday's events.

The liberal Hankook Ilbo newspaper marveled that the U.S. president didn't shake hands in the usual "Trump way" of domineering his counterpart. It also noted that Trump softly tapped Kim on the shoulder and seemed to engage in small talk with him.

Jung Chung-rae, a former lawmaker of the liberal Minjoo Party, tweeted that the handshake "shined with courtesy and respect" and that history will remember their "handshakes and smiles." Media photos showed South Korean President Moon Jae-in smiling broadly during a Cabinet meeting at the Blue House while watching a television screen that showed Trump and Kim shaking hands in front of American and North Korean flags. "All the attention of our people is on Singapore," Moon said. "I, too, could hardly sleep last night."

Shortly before the leaders met, Moon's chief of staff wrote on Facebook that the summit reminded him of his child's birth.

"I remember hovering around the delivery room the day my daughter was born. I didn't care whether you were a boy or a girl. Just come out to the world healthy with a big cry," Im Jong-seok wrote, apparently wishing for a successful outcome from the meeting between Trump and Kim.

Critics, however, saw the handshake and Kim's earlier moonlight stroll as evidence Trump was helping to legitimize Kim as his equal on the world stage even though the North Korean regime has been accused of horrific rights abuses. During his stroll Monday along the glittering Singapore waterfront, crowds yelled Kim's name and jostled to take pictures, and the North Korean leader posed for a selfie with Singapore officials.

PH says Chinese seizures of fish catch unacceptable

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president's office on Monday called Chinese seizures of fish caught by Philippine fishing boats near a disputed shoal unacceptable, and presented three fishermen who described their experiences.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said he and Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano raised the incidents with the Chinese ambassador in Manila, who assured them that Chinese coast guard personnel would be punished if an investigation finds the accusations are accurate.

The recent incidents at Scarborough Shoal have sparked new criticism after a TV network interviewed fishermen and broadcast a video of the alleged confiscations. China has sparked alarm with its recent actions to fortify its sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, including the reported installation of anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles on its newly built islands.

The incidents have increased pressure on President Rodrigo Duterte's government to take a stronger stance toward China's behavior in the disputed waters. Since his inauguration, Duterte has forged cozier ties with China and avoided strongly criticizing it in public.

Dozens of Filipino fishermen and left-wing activists protested at the Chinese Consulate on Monday with posters reading "I can't eat today, China stole our catch" and "I can't fish in our own seas." Some brought fish to symbolize what they called China's "robbery" and "extortion" at sea.

"What they did to our fishermen ... shows that they have claimed the area and not only that they stole the fishermen's catch that was supposed to feed their families on that day, their family went hungry because of this," protest leader Roberto Aleroza said.

Roque said the government has taken action to prevent a repeat of the Chinese actions. "The Chinese coast guard should not be taking even a kilo and we're not allowing this," he said, adding that Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping have agreed that Filipinos should be able to fish freely at Scarborough, which was seized by China in 2012.

Roque, however, suggested the Chinese actions were not an act of harassment and were just "a dent" that would not affect friendly relations between China and the Philippines. Chinese coast guard personnel at times gave noodles, cigarettes and water to Filipino fishermen in exchange for the fish, he said.

Rommel Sihuela, one of the three fishermen presented by Roque at a news conference in the presidential palace on Monday, said Chinese coast guard personnel boarded Philippine fishing boats at Scarborough and took some of their best catch against their will. "They went on board, then helped themselves in our fish containers," he said. "We just let them because they may shoo us away again if we don't allow them to take the fish."

In December, armed Chinese personnel seized fishing equipment from Filipino fishermen, he said.

US lauds Taiwan ties in dedication of new de-facto embassy

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The U.S. dedicated a new de-facto embassy in Taiwan on Tuesday in what officials described as an indicator of robust ties with the self-governing island democracy that China claims as its own territory.

The recently completed American Institute in Taiwan office in a suburb of the capital Taipei will house U.S. representatives and serves American interests in the absence of formal diplomatic ties.

The U.S. switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1979 but maintains close economic, political and security ties with Taiwan.

"We should all be proud of this milestone, which is a symbol of the close cooperation and enduring friendship between the United States and Taiwan," AIT Director Kin W. Moy, the U.S. ambassador in all but name, said at the dedication ceremony.

Joining Moy was U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce, who called the new office "a symbol of the strength and vibrancy of the U.S.-Taiwan partnership in the 21st century."

"Our friendship brings the best out of both our peoples," Royce said.

Among other officials attending the ceremony was Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, whose independence-leaning administration Beijing has sought to isolate diplomatically and threatens with invasion.

The sides split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing insists they eventually unify under its rule. Tsai, who leads the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, has refused Beijing's demand that she recognize Taiwan as a part of China, leading to a prolonged freeze in relations that had been gradually warming under her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou of the pro-unification Nationalist Party.

China bars Taiwan from membership in the United Nations and many other international organizations and has been luring away the island's remaining diplomatic allies, leaving it with just 18. Beijing has cut all contacts with Tsai's government, reduced the number of Chinese tourists visiting the island and upped its military threat with war games and air patrols around the island and by sailing its aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's relations with the United States have grown closer amid Washington's own struggles with Beijing.

In March, President Donald Trump signed the Taiwan Travel Act that encourages high-level visits between the two sides. A month later, the Department of Defense agreed to give American contractors marketing licenses for diesel-electric submarine technology sought by Taiwan's armed forces.

World

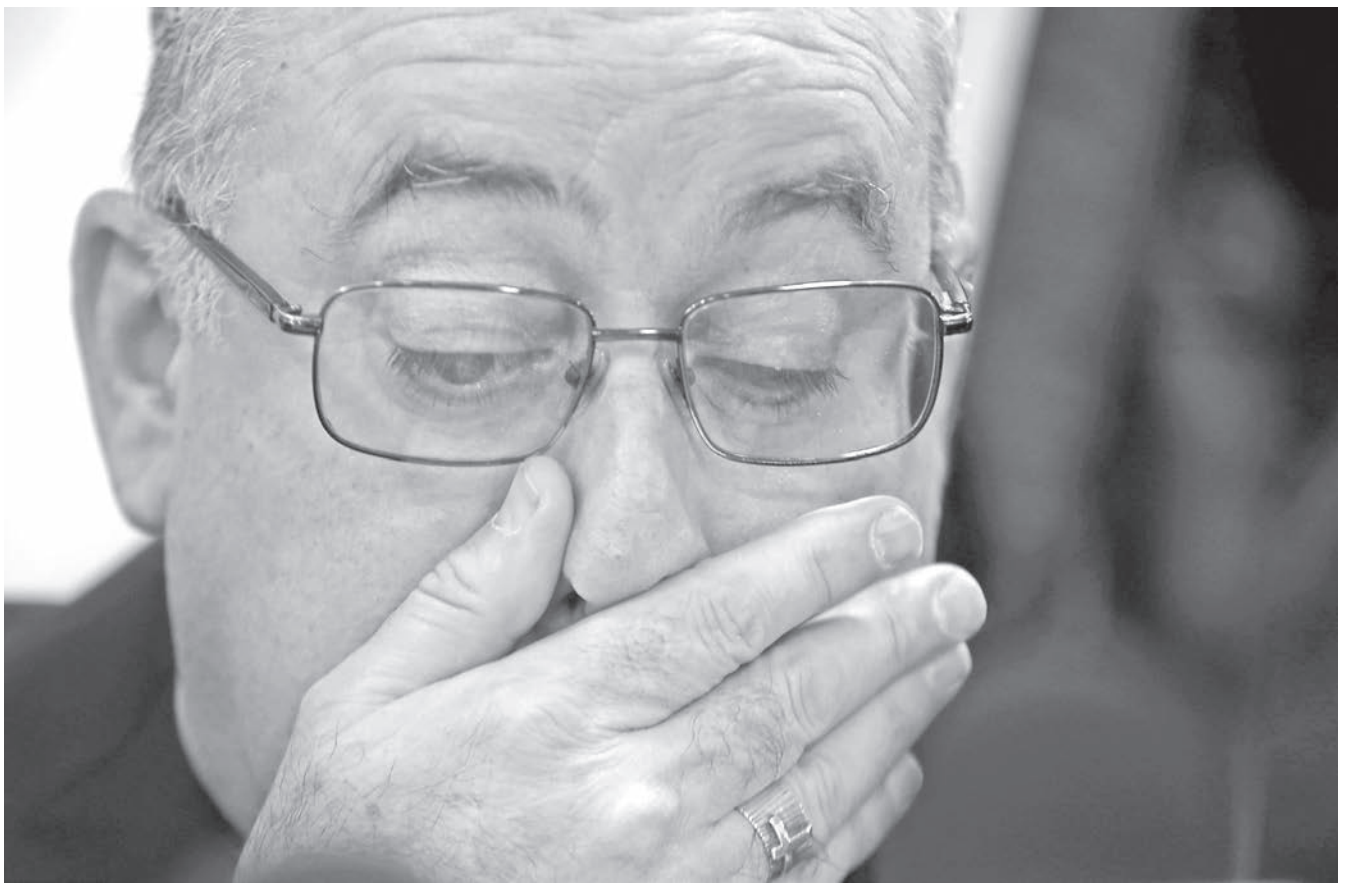
Pope begins purge in Chilean church over sex abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis began purging Chile's Catholic hierarchy on Monday over an avalanche of sex abuse and cover-up cases, starting with accepting the resignations of the bishop at the center of the scandal and two others.

More heads were expected to roll, given that the scandal has only grown in the weeks since all of Chile's 30-plus active bishops offered to quit over their collective guilt in failing to protect Chile's children from priests who raped, groped and molested them.

A Vatican statement said Francis had accepted the resignations of Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno, Bishop Gonzalo Duarte of Valparaiso and Bishop Cristian Caro of Puerto Montt. He named a temporary leader for each diocese.

Barros, 61, has been at the center of Chile's growing scandal ever since Francis appointed him bishop of Osorno in 2015 over the objections of the local faithful, his own sex abuse prevention advisers and some of Chile's other bishops.



AP

Catholic Priest Juan Ignacio Gonzalez, spokesperson for Chile's Episcopal Conference, wipes sweat from his face as he speaks to the press about a letter from Pope Francis in Santiago, Chile, Thursday, May 31, 2018.

They questioned Barros' suitability to lead given he had been a top lieutenant of Chile's most notorious predator priest and had been accused by victims of witnessing and ignoring their abuse by that priest.

Barros denied the charge, but he twice offered to resign in the ensuing years. Last month, he joined the rest of Chile's bishops in offering to step down during an extraordinary Vatican summit. Francis had summoned Chile's church leaders to Rome after realizing he had made "grave errors in judgment" about Barros, whom he had defended strongly during a visit to Chile in January.

In a statement Monday, Barros asked forgiveness "for my limitations and what I couldn't handle." He thanked the pope for his concern for the common good and said he prayed "that one day all the truth will shine."

Barros' removal, which had been expected, was praised by abuse survivors and Catholics in Osorno. Some said more housecleaning now is needed to heal the devastation wrought by the scandal.

"A new day has begun in Chile's Catholic Church!" tweeted Juan Carlos Cruz, the abuse survivor who had denounced Barros for years and pressed the Vatican to take action.

"I'm thrilled for all those who have fought to see this day," he said. "The band of criminal bishops ... begins to disintegrate today."

The other two bishops whose resignations were accepted had submitted them prior to the pope's summit after having reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. But victims had accused both of having botched cases in the past.

Francis realized he had misjudged the Chilean situation after meeting with Cruz and reading a 2,300-page report compiled by two leading Vatican investigators about the depth of Chile's scandal.

The investigators, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Spanish Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu, are heading back to Chile on Tuesday to begin what the Vatican has said is a "healing" mission to Osorno.

By accepting Barros' resignation, Francis essentially gave Scicluna and Bertomeu a hand in helping to heal the divisions in a diocese where Barros never was fully accepted as bishop.

But with the other two resignations, Francis is making clear that the troubles in Chile's church do not rest on Barros' shoulders alone, or on those of the more than 40 other priests and three other bishops trained by the Rev. Fernando Karadima.

The Vatican in 2011 sentenced Karadima, a powerful preacher close to Chile's elite, to a lifetime of penance and prayer for his sex crimes. But the Scicluna-Bertomeu report exposed a far bigger scandal that has implicated several religious orders, including priests and brothers in the Franciscans, the Legion of Christ, the Marist Brothers and the Salesian orders.

Mexican groups seek ICC probe of drug war crimes by military

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Human rights organizations called on International Criminal Court prosecutors Monday to investigate atrocities allegedly committed by the Mexican military in a crackdown on drug crime in the Chihuahua region.

The rights groups presented a dossier to prosecutors documenting alleged slayings, torture, rapes and forced disappearances involving 121 victims during 2008-2010, saying they amounted to crimes against humanity.

The groups allege that military vehicles and facilities were used during the crimes and that the cases "reveal the existence of a clear organized policy by the authorities against the civilian population."

They want ICC action because of the "lack of independence and impartiality" of Mexican judicial authorities and the absence of "authentic national procedures," the groups said.

It is the third time the rights groups have sought ICC action on Mexico. Previously, they presented cases from Coahuila and Baja California.

The court has not yet opened a preliminary investigation into any of the cases.

Even so, activists see progress in some judicial reforms in Mexico since they began submitting their evidence to the ICC several years ago.

"When we started the work on submitting the communication, the issue of international crimes being committed in Mexico was not an issue," said Jimena Reyes, Director for the Americas for the International Federation for Human Rights. "So right now it is on the table, on the agenda."

However, she added when it comes to investigating allegations of atrocities leveled at the armed forces, "the state of Mexico is in complete denial. They don't want to hear about crimes against humanity."

The military has played a central role in the war on drug cartels since at least late 2006, when the then-newly installed President Felipe Calderon deployed soldiers across the country to fight the gangs. The militarized offensive has continued under current President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Italy's new leaders get tough on migrants; Spain steps up

ROME (AP)—Italy's new "Italians first" government claimed victory Monday when the Spanish prime minister offered safe harbor to a private rescue ship after Italy and Malta refused to allow it permission to disembark its 629 migrant passengers in their ports.

The Aquarius, a rescue vessel operated by aid group SOS Mediterranee, has been stuck in the Mediterranean Sea since Saturday, when Italy refused its crew permission to dock and demanded that Malta do so. Malta refused on Sunday.

Spain's new Socialist prime minister, Pedro Sanchez stepped in Monday, ordering authorities in Valencia to prepare for the ship's arrival.

"It's our duty to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe and offer a secure port for these people," Sanchez said.

Both the ship and its passengers were caught up in a political dispute that might not have happened weeks ago.

One of the coalition partners in the populist government that took over in Italy on June 1, the right-wing League, promised voters other European Union countries would be made to share the burden of caring for asylum-seekers who set out for Europe on unseaworthy smugglers' boats.

"Evidently it pays to raise one's voice, something Italy hasn't done as long as one can remember," Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, the League's leader, said Monday at party headquarters.

For those aboard the Aquarius, Spain's offer of docking rights at the port of Valencia was welcome news, although it did not provide a quick or easy solution. By Monday evening, the ship was more than 1,400 kilometers (over 750 nautical miles) from Valencia and still awaiting formal instructions to head to Spain as weather forecasts predicted worsening conditions.

It was unclear if the days of sailing west it would take to get to Spain were feasible, SOS Mediterranee Maritime Operations Manager Antoine Laurent said. The traumatized, exhausted passengers include 120 minors, many of them traveling alone, and seven pregnant women. Several migrants had water in their lungs, suffered hypothermia or burns from a mix of boat fuel and seawater while in their traffickers' boats.

Malta had food and water ferried Monday to the Aquarius, which was running out of supplies.

"The situation is stable but it cannot run" on forever, Laurent said.

A doctor aboard the ship, David Beversluis, said one passenger had to be revived after he was rescued.

"All the survivors are exhausted and dehydrated because they spent many hours adrift in these boats," he said.

Even as the Aquarius' crew grappled with the logistics, Italy vowed to block other rescue boats, including the Dutch-flagged Sea-Watch 3, another aid group's boat. Like the Aquarius, the Sea-Watch 3 rescued migrants in the waters off Libya, where human smugglers are based and asylum-hopefuls have reported torture, beatings, rape and scarce rations in migrant detention centers.

"Little changes if the boat is called Aquarius or Sea-Watch 3," Salvini, the interior minister, said. "We want to put an end to this traffic in human beings. And, so, as we have raised the problem for the Aquarius, we'll do it for all the other boats."

Even as he drew his line, an Italian coast guard vessel with 936 migrants and two migrants' bodies on board was headed toward Catania, Sicily, where it was expected to dock on Tuesday evening, Italian news agency ANSA said. The passengers were rescued in seven separate operations.

Focus

AP

In this photo taken Friday, June 1, 2018, a family sits outside in a neighborhood where three people died of Ebola last month, in Mbandaka, Congo. For the first time since the Ebola virus was identified more than 40 years ago, a vaccine has been dispatched to front line health workers in an attempt to combat the epidemic from the onset.

Crucial test of Ebola vaccine raises hopes, doubts in Congo

By SAM MEDNICK and LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

MBANDAKA, Congo (AP)— Irene Mboyo Mola spent 11 days caring for her husband as he died of Ebola in a hospital where she said nurses were too scared to get close. She helped him to the bathroom, picked up his feverish body when he lost his balance, and reinserted an IV that fell out of his bleeding arm.

"He told me all he could see was death," recalls Mola, a 30-year-old mother of six, as she sat slumped on the floor in her small hut.

That close contact put Mola at high risk of getting a disease that has no cure and kills about half of those infected. But now, as Congo battles the most serious Ebola outbreak since the devastating 2014 epidemic in West Africa, health workers have something new to offer: a vaccine.

With thousands of doses dispatched to front-line health workers, the world is watching to see if a promising but still experimental vaccine might help stop this terrifying disease faster than traditional measures doctors have tried since Ebola was identified 40 years ago.

Even if the vaccine helps, there are serious hurdles. The shots must be transported deep into forests with few paved roads without it spoiling in the heat. Health workers have to identify and track down anyone who's had contact with a sick person. Hardest of all, they must persuade a scared and wary population that shots pushed by foreigners could save their lives.

"Communities themselves must be at the center of the response if the activities are going to be effective," said Jonathan Polonsky of the World Health Organization, a surveillance coordinator in Mbandaka, a city of more than 1 million in northwestern Congo.

Mola's six children have all been vaccinated. But she refused, telling government social workers and WHO workers that she didn't believe her husband died from Ebola. She said the hospital never showed her records confirming he'd tested positive for the virus.

FEAR AND OPPORTUNITY

There's no guarantee the long-sought vaccine will help stop the outbreak. But Congo's health ministry and the WHO rushed in 7,500 doses, created by the Public Health Agency of Canada and owned by Merck.

It was deemed the best option because the vaccine was found highly promising in testing a few years ago, when the epidemic in West Africa, which killed more than 11,000 people between 2014 and 2016, was starting to wane.

The plan: What's called "ring vaccination," to find and vaccinate everyone who's had direct contact with a sick person—the first "ring"—and then contacts of those people, too, to break the chain of infection.

Last month, 11-year-old German Umba and her 6-year-old brother lost their father to Ebola. Both were vaccinated. But a shot alone doesn't end the worry. U.N. workers monitor the children several times a day for fevers, an early symptom, until the incubation period passes.

Standing in the yard outside her classroom at school the young girl suddenly bursts into tears. Surrounded by aid workers, classmates and teachers who are unable to touch and console her, she buries her face in her shirt. "I just miss my father," she says.

Success with the vaccination strategy hinges on the speed at which health workers can identify people at risk.

"If you detect cases late, you're missing the opportunity to protect people," said Dr. Iza Ciglenecki, who is working on the vaccination campaign with Doctors Without Borders.

Congo's current outbreak has killed 14 people so far, according to the country's Ministry of Health. There have been 38 confirmed infections.

Friday, WHO emergency response chief Peter Salama said many people vaccinated in Mbandaka received the shots more than 10 days ago, meaning they're now protected—the vaccine has had time to kick in.

Finding people who need vaccination is much harder in the remote area of Iboko, where a new case was just reported. Shoddy infrastructure adds to the challenge.

"The roads are so bad that even if a person gets vaccinated it can be too late and they can still die," said Rosy Boyekwa Yamba, a regional representative for the Ministry of Health in Mbandaka.

It can take days to travel just 100 miles (160 kilometers) to reach remote areas where Ebola still is spreading. The vaccine must be kept at a temperature of minus 76 to minus 112 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 60 to minus 80 degrees Celsius), and can only be kept in mobile freezers for up to seven days.

Yamba also worries that potentially infected people aren't being found. Five such people came forward last week in Mbandaka after he pleaded with community members to "be honest with him" about whether they'd been in contact with someone who had the disease.

So far more than 2,000 people, including front-line health workers, have been vaccinated in Mbandaka and the rural villages of Bikoro and Iboko where confirmed cases have been found, says the Congo's Ministry of Health.

DISTRUST IN THE COMMUNITY

Mola's refusal to believe that Ebola killed her husband is a common reaction in the region. While many in Mbandaka have taken to washing hands and avoiding physical contact amid the outbreak, many also remain skeptical. They often don't trust a government they say is corrupt. Of the dozens of people The Associated Press spoke to on a recent visit, nearly all said they don't believe Ebola exists and referred to it as witchcraft.

This is Congo's ninth outbreak but illnesses are usually in remote areas, not cities.

"Ebola is not here," said local resident Aziza Monzu. "It's a disease created by organizations to get money."

Dr. Pierre Rollin, an Ebola expert with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, understands. "People die every day and everywhere but nobody's interested. Suddenly because of Ebola people are interested and that makes you suspicious," he said. "Why would they trust us?"

Mola seems to have escaped infection. The incubation period for Ebola is up to 21 days and her husband died three weeks ago. "I'm still here," she said.

Still, WHO officials say three quarters of those who have been approached have agreed to a shot since the campaign started two weeks ago. Once you've got people on board "you've tackled 90 percent of the problem," said Dr. Alhassane Touré, the WHO coordinator for ring vaccination in Congo and Guinea.

DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

Health experts say the next two weeks will be critical in determining whether the outbreak will be brought under control. The WHO is now shifting efforts to more remote areas to contain the outbreak. The organization has predicted there could be up to 300 cases of Ebola in the coming months.

"We could see is another introduction of someone that comes from Itipo (a village in Iboko) or somewhere else to see family (in Mbandaka)," said CDC's Rollin. In the last few days there's been a big push in Itipo, the epicenter of the outbreak with 24 confirmed cases, to retrace people and vaccinate contacts as well as health workers, he said.

No matter how the outbreak unfolds Rollin says it will be nearly impossible to say whether the vaccine worked to stop the disease's spread.

"We can say the vaccine plus all the other measures work, but you can't say the vaccine by itself works," he said. In order to do that a controlled test would have to be run where in one place only the vaccine is being used and in another it's not being used at all.

Next year, Merck plans to seek approval of the vaccine from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, based on previous studies of the shots. While the vaccine isn't being formally studied in the current Congo outbreak, regulatory authorities would want to know if unforeseen side effects crop up.

"If it's fully approved then in each outbreak it'll be the first measure and could be used all over the region," Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe, director general of the National Institute for Biomedical Research in Kinshasa told the AP.

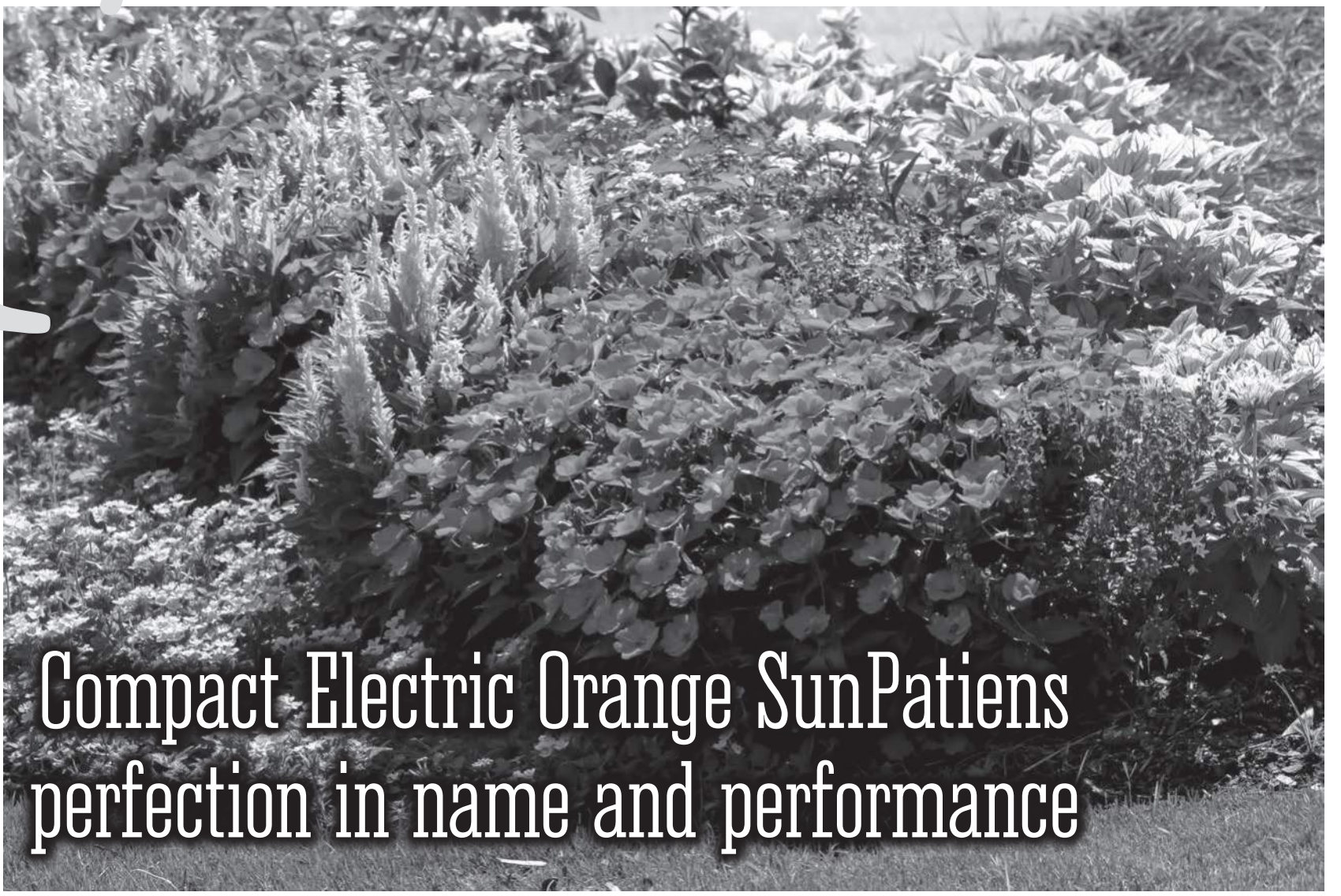
In West Africa, a large study is underway that compares the Merck shot and a second vaccine candidate made by Janssen Pharmaceuticals to determine best vaccination strategies and track how long protection lasts.

In the meantime, some recipients say the shot provided peace of mind.

Seated in a yard in the center of town, Mbandaka resident Marie Louise proudly slaps her vaccination papers on the table. She had cradled her grandson in her arms as he vomited blood on the hospital floor, and he later died. His case wasn't officially confirmed as Ebola, but she knew she needed to get vaccinated. Tapping her arm where she was given the needle, the 68-year-old beams. "Give me the vaccine," she says. "I get life with the vaccine."

Good Housekeeping

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens perfection in name and performance

Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens create quite a showy display with Fresh Look Yellow celosia, Cathedral Deep Blue salvia and Lanai Peach verbena. TNS

The color that always catches my eye in the garden is orange. It is not subtle, it reaches out and commands your attention. Though it is in between red and yellow it is the hallmark color on the color wheel.

Now not any old orange will do for The Garden Guy, I want screaming, shocking orange and the best plant for that is Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens. This is also the best name ever given to a color, perfection indeed.

I've grown this plant for a number of years and one occasion left my little white-haired ladies on the board feeling as though I had just hosted a gala of debauchery. In other words, this color was NOT found on their color wheel.

This is okay as we are not all the same. I hear it from my color designer son as his clients will have a long list of colors to never use. This orange is normally there. On the other hand, sometimes they have such a long list that in the end, he has to ask the question, "Well, what color would you like?"

The Compact Electric Orange is so vivid I think stop signs and firetrucks should adopt the color.

A complementary pairing with any shade of blue is simply riveting. One of my suggestions is Sanguna Atomic Blue petunia. You have to admit electric orange and atomic blue sounds like quite a marriage. The petunia market is loaded with so many varieties however you'll just be choosing what is available. But it's not just blue petunias, but blue salvias too.

You may find it hard to believe but should you plant Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens even now you may actually have them blooming for the next 150 days or more in the deep south. I know of no other plants that can match this type of garden performance.

Soil preparation plays a critical role in your success with SunPatiens which are, New Guinea hybrids. The soil should be fertile, organic-rich and very well drained. In almost every instance I have planted them on raised beds comprised of a prepared landscape mix, an application of a controlled release fertilizer, with a good layer of mulch. The fertilizer is important as it gives the plants a quick jump start.

Though I have been talking about their ability to perform in full sun, they are just as sensational in morning sun and afternoon shade, high filtered light or any location other than dense shade.

You will find SunPatiens in 3 growth habits, vigorous, compact and spreading. While this is mostly true, I can also say in the south, they are all pretty vigorous. To me, this just means there are more glorious flowers to enjoy. Compact Electric Orange reaches 14- 32 inches in height with an equal spread.

Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens reach from 14 to 32 inches tall and as wide creating a 'look at me' planting in the landscape. TNS

Recently I saw a terrific planting of electric orange that was broken up by Fresh Look Yellow celosia, had a dash of blue from Cathedral Deep Blue salvia and a front layer of Lanai Peach verbena.

Though I love the psychedelic orange there are plenty of lavenders, pinks, lilacs, whites and even reds throughout the series, one or two of which should fit your palette. Be forewarned there is a very good chance they will still be looking good when it is time to plant pansies. Oh, what a problem!

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens perform best in fertile organic rich soils. TNS

Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens look stunning with lime green colors. TNS

Life & Style

Poll: Americans want more of what journalists want to report

NEW YORK (AP)—There's substantial agreement on what Americans want from the news media and what journalists want to report, according to a pair of studies that also reveal a troubling caveat: a nagging feeling among both the ideal isn't being met.

Public suspicion about journalism is also fueled by some basic misunderstandings on how the process works, particularly in an era of rapid change, according to the twin surveys of the American public and journalists released Monday by the Media Insight Project. The effort is a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

The close look at attitudes comes in the midst of President Donald Trump's relentless attacks on the news media and the continued downsizing of the economically beleaguered newspaper industry. It has left journalists beaten down: The surveys found about 3 in 4 journalists believe the public's level of trust in the news media has decreased in the past year. Yet only 44 percent of American adults actually say their level of trust has decreased.

The public actually wants what most journalists say they want to give them—news stories that are factual and offer context and analysis, said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute. But the public doesn't feel like they're seeing enough of that work, with 42 percent of Americans saying journalists stray too far into commentary, according to the new research.

That's one reason that Anna Retana, a mother of five from Enumclaw, Washington, said that she's cut back on her news consumption.

"Most people who watch the news or read a newspaper, they're wanting to find out the truth," Retana said. "They don't want to have tons of propaganda to sift through, and that's what we see a lot of."

Journalists can't take for granted that the public knows what it's getting, Rosenstiel said. Much of journalism's shared language and structure is rooted in newspapers, yet many Americans get their news through social media streams, where it isn't always clear from where stories come, Rosenstiel said. Newspapers have "op-ed" sections, yet half of the public doesn't know what the term means.

Study finds that film critics are almost 80 percent male

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly 80 percent of film critics are male, according to a new study that analyzed the movie reviews to last year's top box-office hits.

The research was conducted by the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, which released its findings Monday. Researchers studied the reviews of the 100 top-grossing films of 2017 that were posted on the aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes.

Of the 19,559 reviews studied, 77.8 were by male critics and 22.2 were by female critics. Stacy Smith, founder and director of the Inclusion Initiative, said film critics are "overwhelmingly white and male."

The lack of diverse critical perspectives, researchers said, contributes to the larger gender and ethnic biases in the film industry. The study counted 36 female-driven movies and 24 minority-led movies among the top 100 films of 2017, but found they were largely reviewed by white males.

Previous studies have charted the low numbers of female directors helming Hollywood's most popular productions. USC has found that 4 percent of all directors from the 1,100 top films from 2007 to 2017 were female. Researchers at San Diego State University found that women directed 11 percent of 2017's top 250 films, up from 7 percent the last year but the same percentage as in 2000.

"The very individuals who are attuned to the under- and misrepresentation of females on screen and behind the camera are often left out of the conversation and critiques," Smith said.

Female critics from minority groups accounted for just

SORRY, CANADA AP

Robert De Niro apologized to Canadians on Monday for the "idiotic behavior of my president" a day after the actor launched an expletive at Donald Trump at the Tony awards. De Niro said Trump's remarks about Canada are a "disgrace" and apologized to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and others who attended the Group of Seven summit of leaders in Canada. Trump called Trudeau "dishonest" and "weak" following the summit on Saturday. Trump advisers also ripped Trudeau, branding him a back-stabber. De Niro made his comments at a groundbreaking for a new restaurant and hotel complex in Toronto.

US broadcaster loses Myanmar outlet over Rohingya name

BANGKOK (AP)—A U.S. government-affiliated broadcaster that provides news to countries in Asia where freedom of information is restricted is losing its partner in Myanmar after refusing to stop using the word "Rohingya" to describe an oppressed Muslim minority.

Monday was the last day DVB Media Group's network would carry Radio Free Asia's television broadcasts, RFA spokesman Rohit Mahajan said. He said RFA told Myanmar authorities that it was unwilling to bow to their pressure to use a term other than Rohingya.

About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh since Myanmar's government launched a violent counterinsurgency campaign last August in western Myanmar, where most Rohingya lived. Many people in Myanmar call the Rohingya "Bengali" to reflect the contention that they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh rather than natives.

The government refuses to recognize the Rohingya as an official ethnic minority and denies most the right to citizenship and its privileges.

Myanmar is the second Southeast Asian nation in 10 months where RFA has lost access to local broadcasters. Cambodia last August prohibited local FM stations from carrying RFA programming, one of several actions restricting the media in what was seen as a move to silence critical voices ahead of a general election this July.

Mahajan said RFA had been broadcasting on DVB's channel since early October last year. A May 7 memo about DVB's case from the government broadcasting agency Myanma Radio and Television to private broadcasters said the direct use of the "controversial word 'Rohingya'" was a violation of contractual codes to which broadcasters are bound.

Editors resign over decision to retain author Junot Diaz

BOSTON (AP)—Three editors at the Boston Review are resigning over the political and literary magazine's decision to retain author Junot Diaz despite allegations of sexual misconduct.

Poetry editors Timothy Donnelly, Barbara Fischer and Stefania Heim said on Twitter last week they're "dismayed" at the logic behind keeping Diaz as fiction editor and felt compelled to step down, effective July 1.

"It was painful to leave but we couldn't possibly stay," Donnelly said by email Monday. "Their position, especially as expressed in their statement, was deeply at odds with our own and with the work we do."

Editors-in-chief Deborah Chasman and Joshua Cohen announced on the magazine's website last week that they had concluded the accusations against Diaz didn't suggest a pattern of abuse that would merit letting him go.

"The objectionable conduct described in the public reports does not have the kind of severity that animated the #MeToo movement," the two editors said, referring to the international movement against sexual harassment and assault that took off last year.

Author Zinzi Clemmons and other female writers have recently shared stories of Diaz's behavior. Clemmons said Diaz forcibly kissed her several years ago; others cited instances when they felt he had verbally attacked them. Diaz, who didn't immediately comment on the Boston Review controversy, has said he takes responsibility for his past actions.

'Star Wars' Chewbacca actor fights for Venezuelan children

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—He fought in epic battles against the galactic empire. Now an actor who portrayed "Star Wars" legend Chewbacca is fighting for Venezuela's poor with an online fundraising campaign whose proceeds will benefit a charity feeding underprivileged children in the crisis-wracked South American nation.

Peter Mayhew, who played Chewbacca in five "Star Wars" movies, has so far raised more than $10,000 through the sale of commemorative coins showing the Wookiee warrior's hairy legs and a bullet belt slung around a map of Venezuela.

The 74-year-old actor, who is retired, said that the idea emerged after he met Elisa Arguello, a Venezuelan actress and "Star Wars" fan who migrated three years ago to the Dallas-Fort Worth area where Mayhew also resides.

"We follow her on Facebook, and were aware of the deteriorating situation in Venezuela," Mayhew told The Associated Press. "It had been bothering us for a while and one night, my wife Angie picked up the phone and asked Elisa if there was any way we could get involved. She started crying and said yes."

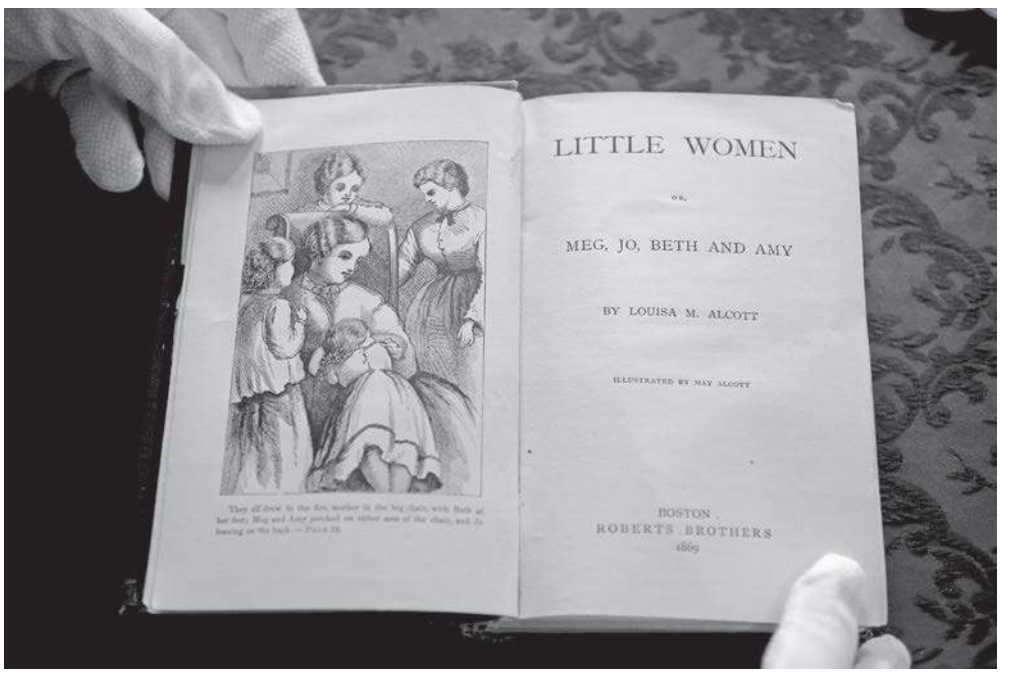
The copper coins are being sold online for $10 by the Peter Mayhew Foundation. But proceeds will go to a small Texas charity called "Ponte en sus zapatos," which is Spanish for "Put yourself in their shoes." The charity has been working in Venezuela for over a year and says it feeds 100 needy children every day and donates supplies like diapers and baby formula to a hospital that treats children with cancer.

Hospitals in Venezuela often cannot provide patients with the most basic supplies due to widespread shortages and five-digit inflation.

150 years on, 'Little Women' and its author still resonate

CONCORD, Mass. (AP)—A century and a half before the #MeToo movement gave women a bold, new collective voice, Louisa May Alcott was lending them her own.

Society had far different expectations of women in 1867, when publisher Thomas Niles asked Alcott to write a "girls' story." At a time when women were expected to marry, often did not hold employment and could not vote, Alcott had her doubts about the success of "Little Women."



AP

In this May 17, 2018 photo, an illustration and title page to the book Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott, appear in an 1869 edition of the book at Orchard House, in Concord, Mass.

Since then, the coming-of-age book has been translated into more than 50 languages and made into films, a musical and a recently aired PBS "Masterpiece" miniseries. The novel constantly finds new audiences as women worldwide confront sexual misconduct, misogyny and pay inequity.

Mayela Boeder, 34, of Appleton, Wisconsin, read "Little Women" as a girl and thinks it's still relevant.

"You could say that strong females in literature, TV and every other medium have slowly shaped the minds of modern strong women," she says.

"We grew up with Buffy, Hermione, Katnis, Jo, Lizzie Bennet, Sara Crewe, among others, and so we have almost been groomed to fight for what's right and to not let others take advantage of us."

Alcott drew heavily from her experiences living in poverty with progressive parents Bronson and Abigail Alcott and three sisters in Concord, Massachusetts. Although her transcendentalist father led his family through 30 homes, one stands out as the place where "Little Women" was written: Orchard House.

Alcott was 26 when her family moved into the then-dilapidated house in 1858. The enterprising family turned the tenant farmhouse, once slated for destruction, into a place where Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and other literary neighbors would drop by for intellectual discussions. Bronson encouraged his wife and daughters to join and built Louisa a desk at a time when writing was considered by scientists to be injurious to the female psyche.

Looking back, says Orchard House Executive Director Jan Turnquist, the Alcotts were feminists. "They believed all humans have agency," she says.

She tells of how Louisa May Alcott was the first woman to register to vote in Concord in 1879, when Massachusetts gave women the right to vote in town elections on education and children issues.

In 1880, Alcott and 19 other women attended the Concord town meeting and cast their ballots. In a letter to periodical Woman's Journal, Alcott wrote of voting: "No bolt fell on our audacious heads, no earthquake shook the town."

Alcott did other unconventional things. At 30, she served as a nurse in the Civil War. She traveled alone when most women could not. And she wrote stories that are the equivalent of a modern-day James Patterson thriller at a time when female authors were not popular.

Although there's no evidence Alcott was ever sexually assaulted, she was harassed and had to endure misogyny as an ambitious, unmarried woman.

After writing the first part of "Little Women" in 1868, Alcott received a flood of letters asking if the main character, Jo March, would marry neighbor boy Laurie. Pulitzer Prize-winning Alcott historian John Matteson says, "Her publisher said, 'You have to marry her off,' and wanted the character to marry Laurie."

Alcott was mortified that her mother had to scrape to keep the family going financially. "She knew what a trap marriage could be," Matteson says. "She very much intended not to marry Jo off at all."

Alcott appeased Niles, the publisher, by writing in Professor Friedrich Bhaer, a homely German professor, as a husband.

One of Alcott's goals was to lift her family out of poverty. She took jobs as a teacher, seamstress, writer and, in one instance, a live-in companion for the sick sister of a man named James Richardson.

Instead of having her tend to his sister, Richardson had 18-year-old Alcott do housekeeping and spend evenings listening to him reading romantic poetry. He started slipping suggestive notes beneath her bedroom door and added backbreaking work to her chores as she rejected his advances. She quit, making only $4 for the seven-week stay.

While she hesitates to call that a #MeToo encounter, Turnquist says it was "sleazy and not appropriate," and bordered on sexual harassment.

Alcott wrote an essay on the experience, which friend James Field, editor of The Atlantic, assessed and said: "Stick to your teaching. You can't write."

White House restricts US press access to Kim Jong Un summit

SINGAPORE (AP)—The White House restricted journalists' access to parts of President Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong Un on Tuesday despite long-standing arrangements intended to ensure the public is kept fully abreast of key presidential moments, such as the first meeting in history with a North Korean leader.

Under standard rules agreed to by the White House and the press corps, a full pool of reporters travels with the president at all times and is allowed at any meetings where press access in granted, even if space is limited. The group includes representatives from various forms of media—such as TV, print and photos—who then pool the information they gather with other news outlets that are unable to be present because of space.

During the photo-op at the start of Trump's one-on-one meeting with Kim, text reporters for newswires The Associated Press, Reuters and Bloomberg were kept out of the pool, as were the designated representatives for radio and the foreign press corps. Although a television cameraman and sound technician were allowed in, the TV networks' editorial representative—responsible for relaying information to colleagues about what occurs or is said during the photo-op—was not.

Some, but not all, were later allowed in for the photo-op of Trump's larger meeting with Kim and aides from both countries.

No independent journalists were allowed in for another photo-op at the start of a working lunch meeting involving Trump, Kim and top aides. U.S. journalists learned that the lunch was underway only when footage from inside was displayed on a video feed provided by summit host Singapore.

"AP is troubled by the decision to curb media access at the Singapore summit," said Lauren Easton, AP's director of media relations and a spokeswoman for the news cooperative. "It is a disservice to the public, which deserves prompt, accurate and complete reporting on what may be one of the president's most consequential meetings."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment about why the full pool was not permitted to cover the events.

Couple's plans hit a snag over detour to a strip club

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for a year and a half. We are planning on moving to California together in a few months.

I flew to Monterey to job hunt, and he is supposed to be flying in soon. However, last night I found out he and his buddy went to a strip club. My boyfriend knows I'm uncomfortable with him going to strip clubs, and he assured me that they would not be going when we spoke on the phone earlier in the evening.

He says I'm controlling and childish for being angry at him. I told him it's either me or the strip clubs—mostly just to see how he would react. His response was that freedom of choice is very important to him. I even went as far as to say if he feels the need to go to strip clubs, then I would start stripping on the side to spite him.

I'm tempted to cancel his ticket to California. I don't want him flying here if we are just going to fight. Is this situation worth the cost of a relationship? How do I deal with someone so stubborn to the point he can't see when he's in the wrong? Abby, he is in the wrong, isn't he?

CHOICE IS CLEAR

DEAR CHOICE: A wise woman chooses her battles carefully. If your boyfriend spent more than an occasional evening hanging out in strip clubs, I can see why it would be a deal breaker. But unless you left something important out of your letter—like the fact that he did more than look —it doesn't appear that he does.

You escalated the situation and you shouldn't have. However, if you feel so strongly about strip clubs, perhaps you should consider finding another man to spend your life with because it really isn't possible to control the actions of another adult.

DEAR ABBY: My 33-year-old daughter recently moved back home after failing to finish a graduate program. I discovered she was an alcoholic a few years ago and encouraged her to get treatment. She was in an outpatient recovery program and making progress, but recently relapsed.

Before her relapse, her dad and I helped her to buy a business, which is not doing well. Her employees quit, and she lost a lot of income. She started going to AA meetings, and hired some people she met who attend and live in a halfway house.

I regret helping her, and I now realize I must stop all interactions with her. She has a huge sense of entitlement and does not appreciate my help. I feel I have failed as a parent and hope I can move past this and work through my depression. Any advice you can offer is welcome.

BEST MOM I CAN BE

DEAR BEST MOM: You have not "failed" as a parent. Your daughter has an addiction. Her addiction is not your fault. Substance abusers have been known to fall off the wagon on their road to sobriety, and this is what happened to your daughter.

It would be helpful for you to talk about your depression with a licensed mental health professional who is familiar with addictions, and to attend some Al-Anon meetings. Because you feel your relationship with your daughter has reached the point that she can no longer live with you, tell her she must make other living arrangements and set a date for her to move out. Do not do it in anger. In fact, it may be better for both of you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

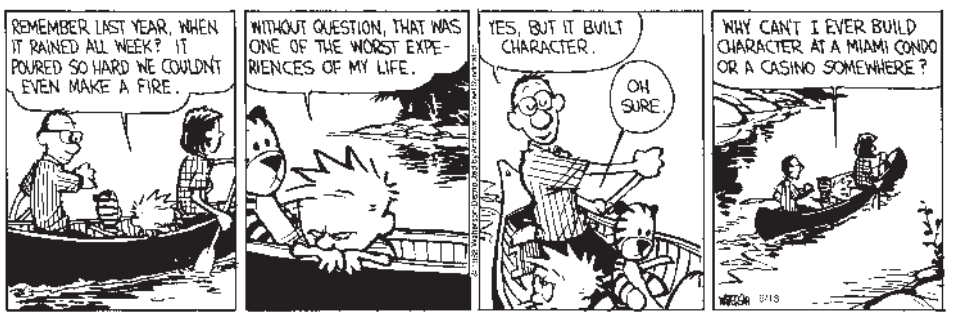
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

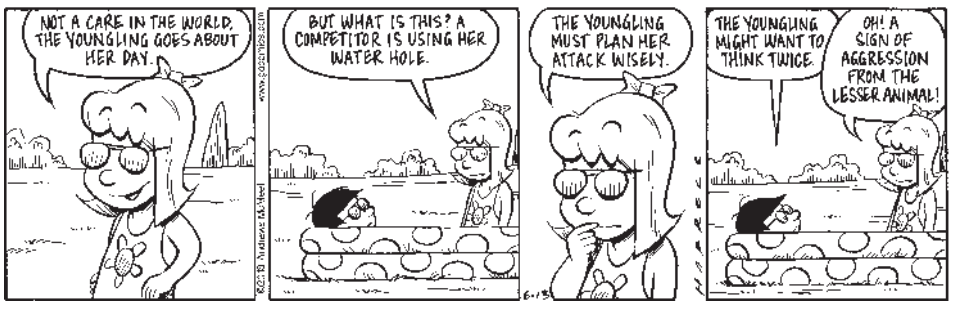

REMEMBER LAST YEAR, WHEN IT RAINED ALL WEEK? IT POURED SO HARD WE COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A FIRE.
WITHOUT QUESTION, THAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.
YES, BUT IT BUILT CHARACTER.
OH SURE.
WHY CAN'T I EVER BUILD CHARACTER AT A MIAMI CONDO OR A CASINO SOMEWHERE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD, THE YOUNGLING GOES ABOUT HER DAY.
BUT WHAT IS THIS? A COMPETITOR IS USING HER WATER HOLE.
THE YOUNGLING MUST PLAN HER ATTACK WISELY.
THE YOUNGLING MIGHT WANT TO THINK TWICE.
OH! A SIGN OF AGGRESSION FROM THE LESSER ANIMAL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BARK BARK ARF YAP YAP ARF BARK ARF ARF ARF
ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF
MAYBE I CAN'T CATCH THE SQUIRRELS, BUT I CAN RUIN THEIR QUALITY OF SLEEP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Prosperous period
5 Scooted
8 Gulf War missile
12 Ranch measure
13 Swiss canton
14 Drive- — window
15 Innocent-looking
17 Painter Magritte
18 Sermon
19 "Citizen Kane" inspiration
21 Wee bit
22 Within (Pref.)
23 "Scandal" network
26 Up-to-date
28 British nobles
31 London neighborhood
33 "Dig in!"
35 Simple
36 Used a broom
38 Yank's foe
40 Notable time
41 500 sheets
43 "The Simpsons" barkeep
45 Third-largest island
47 Imitate
51 New York canal
52 Square-ended cigars
54 Computer brand
55 Owns
56 Let fall
57 Church service
58 Busy insect
59 Spuds' buds

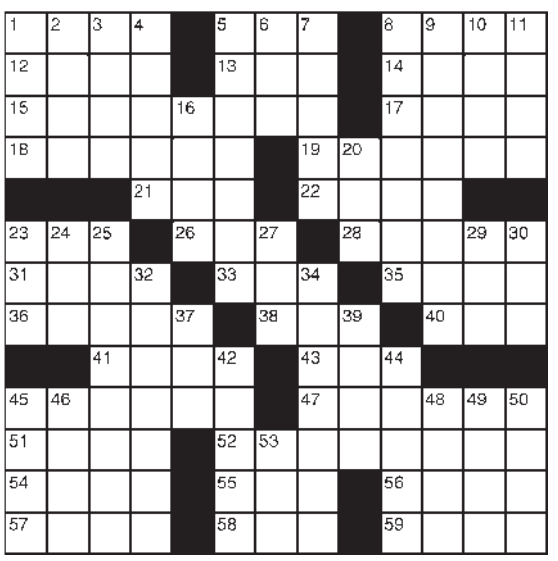
DOWN

1 "Goldberg Variations" composer
2 Twice cuatro
3 Utah city
4 Deserve
5 "A Raisin in the Sun" actress
6 "Exodus" hero
7 Recess
8 Social level
9 Iroquoian language
10 Grecian vessels
11 Pair's air
16 — Bator
20 Finale
23 Donkey
24 Fiddle stick
25 Small red fruits
27 Armed conflict
29 Goof up
30 Yacht spot
32 Starting bids
34 Violent storm
37 — kwon do
39 Sow's mate
42 Coffee flavor
44 Wear down
45 Smile broadly
46 Killer whale
48 Golfer McIlroy
49 Oklahoma tribe
50 Recipe amts.
53 Solo of "Star Wars"

Solution time: 23 mins.

F		N	T		O	R	B			C	E	S
O	D	C	R		P	A	R		N	A	C	
L	L	T	I	M	A		A		A	R	I	A
F	Y	E		E	R	S		E	M	B	E	D
			S	S	T		O	N	O			
S		N	U	S		S	P	A	R	T	A	N
A	R	A	B		O	A	T		A	K	I	N
D	E	N	S	I	T	Y		S		O	R	C
			T	O	T		M	A	A			
S	C	C	R	N		G	A	L		G	I	N
A	L	M	A		H	H	I		A	I	A	
M	O	A	T		R	O	N		H	I	S	S
E	T	N	A		A	G	E		E	N	Y	A

Yesterday's answer 6-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Dennings, 32; Chris Evans, 37; Tim Allen, 65; Stellan Skarsgard, 67.

Happy Birthday: A conscientious approach to whatever you do will help you avoid being put in a position that is precarious or emotionally draining. Honesty and integrity will be the keys to avoiding such situations and people who cannot be trusted. Pick and choose with whom you associate. Don't worry about offending someone who doesn't have your best interest at heart. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 27, 35, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your trust in what you know and not what others tell you. Don't take a risk that could result in illness or injury. Sharing information after you promised to keep a secret will make you look bad. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Listen to what others have to offer, but be reluctant to jump in and take part in something you know little about. Research will save you from making a mistake that can be costly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider your options carefully. Someone will do whatever it takes to persuade you to go against your better judgment. Don't let charm intervene and cost you emotionally or financially. Don't be afraid to pull out of a deal at the last moment. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You have to speak up if you want to be heard. Controversy can make you feel anxious, but stewing about issues that concern you will not help you eliminate your stress. Have a solution in mind and be open to compromise. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll be tempted to make a change, but don't do so without checking out all your options. Acting in haste could cost you the best deal possible. Use your savvy negotiating skills to help you get exactly what you want. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stick to what and who you know. Be leery of anyone trying to impress you or tempt you into something you don't want or need. Bring about the changes that are going to benefit you most. Avoid temptation and indulgence. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A shopping spree, an adventure or a learning expedition will get you thinking about new beginnings and possibilities that have been out of reach in the past. Look into the best way to achieve your personal or professional goals. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Changes you want to make to your home or living arrangements will pose a problem if you have to overspend to get what you want. Look for compromises that will allow you to stay within your budget. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't argue a moot point when you should be following through with your plans. Someone will confuse you with inconsistent information and actions. Rely on the information you get firsthand, not on what someone else alleges. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't procrastinate, or someone will point out your inability to get things done. Living up to your word and taking control of situations before someone else does will ensure that you get your way. A change of heart will be problematic. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be reluctant to take on too much or to give in to someone trying to get you to be indulgent or overspend. Rely on your insight and ability to physically get things done. Don't worry about what others do. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll need to rely on your charm if you want to win an emotional struggle. Your desire to take advantage of something that intrigues you will not sit well with someone close to you. Be prepared to fight for what you want. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, energetic and helpful. You are imaginative and altruistic.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	2	1			
	9				3		
	7				5		
3	2	4	5	8	6	1	
6						2	
5			9			3	
2			7			9	
9						8	
	8	9	1	2	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	9	5	3	8	1	2	6	4
3	2	1	6	4	9	8	7	5
6	8	4	5	7	2	3	1	9
9	1	6	4	3	8	5	2	7
8	5	7	2	9	6	4	3	1
2	4	3	7	1	5	9	8	6
1	6	2	8	5	4	7	9	3
4	7	8	9	6	3	1	5	2
5	3	9	1	2	7	6	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DISNEY CLUB 33 **Solution: 9 letters**

S	E	E	E	T	I	U	S	M	A	E	R	D	S	L
A	G	N	I	R	E	E	N	I	G	A	M	I	E	E
N	A	I	R	O	T	C	I	V	X	A	X	S	G	G
C	N	S	P	M	O	U	S	E	N	T	A	N	N	R
T	I	I	I	O	U	C	L	S	I	L	C	E	A	A
U	M	U	H	S	R	O	I	E	O	O	E	Y	S	N
A	A	C	S	A	U	O	S	N	L	N	D	Ⓛ	E	D
R	T	L	R	I	N	E	N	O	O	E	Ⓞ	A	D	S
Y	I	O	E	C	A	O	R	H	T	Ⓕ	D	N	T	A
R	O	B	B	T	U	F	P	N	Ⓣ	L	T	D	R	L
E	N	B	M	V	U	E	U	L	O	O	R	O	U	O
L	U	Y	E	L	L	A	E	G	N	U	O	L	O	N
L	S	A	M	E	H	I	T	E	E	M	P	B	C	I
A	U	S	T	A	I	R	W	E	L	L	H	I	V	A
G	N	I	N	I	D	M	I	C	K	E	Y	E	V	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Nickel

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-DCCA/HPO-096

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 20, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN: FY2017-FY2022 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. ROBERT H. HUNTER, SECRETARY**, VIA FACSIMILE TO (670) 234-3755 OR VIA E-MAIL TO roberthhunter@gmail.com OR **MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ACHEOLOGIST** VIA E-MAIL TO jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., JUNE 14, 2018**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70.30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB-DPW/SWMD-107-(A-B)-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 13, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" SPORTS UTITLITY VEHICLE, FIVE-PASSENGER, FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION (ROTA BRANCH)"

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Scott Shi Shi Feng Plaintiff
vs.
Zheng Ying Defendant

FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0211

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Shi Feng, whose mailing address is PMB 1821 Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for the relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8500; Fax: (670) 664-8540
www.deq.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres Governor
Victor B. Hocog Lt. Governor

Eli D, Cabrera Administrator
Ray S. Masga Director, DEQ
Janice E., Castro Director, DCRM

NOTICE

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AMENDMENT
PUBLIC HEARING

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that a public hearing has been scheduled for the proposed amendments to the CNMI Water Quality Standards. The proposed amendments pertain to the requirement set forth in the Clean Water Act that States and Territories periodically review their Water Quality Standards, make any necessary changes, and provide for an opportunity for public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING:
Date: July 13, 2018
Time: 5:00p.m.
Location: 2nd Floor BECQ Building,
Gualo Rai, Saipan

The proposed amendments will be published in the June edition of the Commonwealth Register. A copy of the proposed amendments is available now for public inspection at the office of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, 1st floor of the Gualo Rai Center Building, Gualo, Saipan.

Written comments will be accepted up to thirty (30) days from the date of publication in the Commonwealth Register, and should be submitted to: Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP, 96950 or by email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. Emails should contain the subject line "WQS Comments".

ELI D. CABRERA
Administrator

cc: file

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Red Sox beat punchless Orioles in 12 innings

BALTIMORE (AP)—Seems the best-hitting team in the big leagues can win with pitching and defense, too.

Brock Holt and Jackie Bradley Jr. each delivered a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning, and the Boston Red Sox limited the Baltimore Orioles to five hits in a 2-0 victory Monday night.

Though the Red Sox lead the majors in runs and batting average, they managed only four hits through 11 scoreless innings in this one.

"Sometimes we're going to go through stuff like this, throughout the season," manager Alex Cora said. "But the pitching did outstanding, we played great defense and we ended up winning."

Steven Wright and five relievers combined for Boston's fifth shutout of the year.

The Red Sox have scored only 10 runs in their last five games, but perceive that to be nothing more than a mini-slump.

"We're getting guys on, we're just not getting that hit with guys in scoring position," Holt said. "That'll turn."

Xander Bogaerts led off the 12th with a single against Mychal Givens (0-3), and the Red Sox loaded the bases before Holt broke the scoreless deadlock with a fly to center. Bradley followed with a fly ball to score Rafael Devers, who had doubled.

Heath Hembree (3-1) struck out the side in the 11th and Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his 21st save.

"It was a very well-pitched game by everybody that was on the mound today, from the starter all the way through Craig," said Brandon Workman, who contributed 1 1/3 innings of one-hit relief. "Everybody threw the ball well. Put up 12 zeros. That's hard to do at any level of baseball."

It was the fifth straight loss for the Orioles, who have been shut out seven times this season. Baltimore left 13 on base and went 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

"We had plenty of opportunities," manager Buck Showalter said. "We just couldn't get that hit that's been eluding us for it seems like quite a while."

Orioles starter Dylan Bundy gave up three hits over eight innings. He struck out seven, walked two and did not permit a runner to reach third base.

It was his fourth scoreless outing of the season, the second in a row. Last week, the right-hander blanked the Mets on three hits in seven innings.

Wright was going up against an offense that ranked last in the AL in runs and was missing ailing slugger Manny Machado. The knuckleballer allowed four hits over 6 2/3 innings. In the seventh, after Baltimore used two walks and an infield hit to load the bases with two outs, Joe Kelly entered and struck out Adam Jones with a 97 mph fastball.

Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts was reinstated from the disabled list before the game and went 1 for 5 in the leadoff spot. Betts, who came in with a major league-leading .359 batting average, missed 14 games with an abdominal strain.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Brock Holt watches his sacrifice fly ball in the 12th inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Monday, June 11, 2018, in Baltimore. Xander Bogaerts scored on the play. Boston won, 2-0, in 12 innings.

Indians 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, His pitch count soaring in the early going along with his strikeout total, Carlos Carrasco looked as though he might be in for a rather short night.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona thought so. Turned out he was wrong, and that was just fine with him.

Carrasco struck out 11 while pitching two-hit ball over seven innings, and the Indians beat the Chicago White Sox.

"It's hard not to look at it and go, `Man, maybe a five-, six-inning game," Francona said.

Michael Brantley hit his 11th homer and the AL Central leaders took advantage of another wild outing by Lucas Giolito to win for the fifth time in six games. They improved to 4-0 against Chicago.

Carrasco (8-4) gave up singles to Kevan Smith and Charlie Tilson in the second before striking out Adam Engel to end the threat. The right-hander issued just one walk, giving him a total of two to go with 21 strikeouts while winning his past two starts.

Marlins 7, Giants 5

In Miami, Madison Bumgarner blew a sixth inning lead and was ejected on the way out of his second start this season and Miami rallied past San Francisco.

J.T. Realmuto had three hits including his seventh home run of the season and drove in two and Brian Anderson homered, doubled twice, and drove in two runs for the Marlins.

Bumgarner was pulled after giving up a tying hit to Lewis Brinson with one out in the sixth. Upset over calls on a four-pitch walk earlier in the inning, Bumbarner had words for home plate umpire Jeremie Rehak on his way to the dugout and was ejected.

Brandon Crawford's sacrifice fly in the seventh gave the Giants a 5-4 lead. Anderson responded with an RBI double to tie the game at 5. Realmuto followed with a two-run home run to center field off Sam Dyson (2-1).

Rays 8, Blue Jays 4

In St. Petersburg, Jake Bauers hit his first career home run to put Tampa Bay ahead in the fourth inning.

Bauers' two-run homer off Sam Gaviglia after Matt Duffy's single erased a 4-3 Toronto lead. Tampa Bay tacked on three runs in the seventh with the help of a bases-loaded throwing error by reliever John Axford.

Left-hander Ryan Yarbrough, who leads the major leagues with 44 relief innings, started and pitched six innings for the Rays. Yarbrough (5-2) gave up four runs on seven hits while striking out three in his first start since May 14.

The Rays, who won for only the second time in 11 games.

Cardinals 5, Padres 2

In St. Louis, Marcell Ozuna and Jose Martinez hit two-run homers, rookie Jack Flaherty pitched into the seventh inning, and St. Louis beat San Diego for the 13th time in 18 meetings.

Jedd Gyorko added a one-out home run in the eighth, helping drop the Padres to their 46th loss in their last 62 games in St. Louis.

Flaherty (3-2) pitched 6 1/3 innings, his second-longest outing this season. He allowed one run and three hits with a walk and six strikeouts. Flaherty retired 14 consecutive batters before issuing a one-walk in the seventh.

Mariners 5, Angels 3

In Seattle, a healthy and confident Nelson Cruz usually means good things are on the horizon for the Seattle Mariners.

Cruz homered twice and the surprising Mariners overcame Mike Trout's two home runs to beat the Los Angeles Angels.

"(Cruz) feels good about his swing and where his body is at, which is good," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "For home run hitters, it goes in streaks. You see guys hit five, six, seven -- they just get in that groove. And he's certainly in that groove right now. So, hopefully we can ride it as long as we can."

Cubs 7, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Anthony Rizzo turned on the power with a long homer down the right-field line in the 11th inning. Jason Heyward delivered a tying single in the eighth against one of the toughest relievers in baseball.

The Chicago Cubs dented the Milwaukee Brewers' normally lights-out bullpen to return to first place in the NL Central.

Nadal not obsessed with Federer's 20 Slams

PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal's 11th French Open title raised his Grand Slam trophy count to 17, three away from the men's record held by Roger Federer.

That doesn't necessarily mean Nadal is fixated on catching his rival.

"Of course I would love to have 20, like Roger, in the future—or even more," Nadal said Sunday evening after beating Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in the final at Roland Garros, "but being honest, (it's) something that is not in my mind."

He added that it's not an "obsession."

"Let me enjoy this title," Nadal said. "I can't be always thinking of more. Of course, I have ambition. Of course, I have passion for what I am doing. But I never have been crazy about all this kind of stuff. No, you can't be frustrated always if somebody has more money than you, if somebody have a bigger house than you, if somebody have more Grand Slams than you. You can't live with that feeling, no?"

Nadal's uncle, Toni, who used to also be his coach, attended Sunday's match and was asked afterward whether Rafael can pull even with Federer.

"I want to think that is possible," Toni said. "But I know (that) maybe in one month, Federer will win again Wimbledon."

Federer, of course, sat out the French Open to rest and prepare for the grass-court season. He did the same a year ago, and then went on to claim his record eighth championship at the All England Club, where play begins July 2.

The only man with more titles at a single major is Nadal in Paris. He is now 86-2 at the French Open—and, by the looks of things, as good as ever at the place.

Meanwhile, Thiem, a 24-year-old from Austria, might very well be the second-best player on clay in the world, but there's still a large gap, at least at Roland Garros, where he is 0-3 against Nadal.

Thiem and the man he beat in the quarterfinals, 21-year-old Alexander Zverev of Germany, are the two most well-rounded rising stars in the game. The question is when each will be ready for the next step.

Warriors will give Durant new deal, to re-sign Kerr

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Warriors general manager Bob Myers expects swift negotiations to re-sign two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant and coach Steve Kerr.

Durant could sign for as long as four years and about $160 million, and Myers is prepared to give him "whatever he wants." Durant has said all along he wants to stay put, especially after winning a pair of championships in his first two seasons with Golden State.

"Sometimes you don't negotiate. I'd love to have him for 10 years. Kevin Durant, look what he did for us last year, he did us a great service," Myers said. "He's earned the right to sign whatever deal he wants. I just want him to sign a deal. But want him to be happy and want him to know that we want him as long as he wants to be here. He's earned that, to kind of lay out the terms. He can do whatever he wants. That shouldn't be a long negotiation. Our goal, to be honest, is to try to keep the whole thing together, so that's the pieces of the puzzle we've got to try to figure out."

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, left, listens to coach Steve Kerr during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018, in Oakland, Calif. AP

Kerr has one year remaining on his original five-year contract, so he would receive a multiyear extension—and Kerr wants to coach Golden State for the long haul, perhaps for another decade if he can.

He doesn't expect any difficulties in getting a deal worked out.

"We'll get that done pretty quick, I don't think it'll be much to it," Kerr said.

Myers wants to keep as much of the core of the two-time defending champions intact while also realizing the Warriors will be a younger team without the same veteran presence as the group that just swept LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers to finish the finals Friday. Working to try to extend the contracts of Draymond Green and Klay Thompson could be discussed as well.

"Sure, guys have proven they can win so you want to keep that group together," Myers said. "I have no idea how that'll play out. It's a lot of different conversations that have to take place and if that's something that we want to look into I'm sure we could have those—Klay's got another year, Draymond's got two more. Kevin's really the free agent we have to focus on."

After a regular season that was anything but steady, with Stephen Curry limited by injuries to 51 regular-season games, losing seven of 10 late, all four All-Stars out at the same time for health reasons, the Warriors on Tuesday will again host that victory parade in downtown Oakland they planned for all along—their third in four years.

Kerr stayed healthy and on the bench while continuing to deal with symptoms stemming from a pair of back surgeries following the 2015 title.

"I'm sure if you're around our players and talk to them, they make no bones about it, they love playing for him and they love going through this journey with him," Myers said of Kerr.

Key reserve David West is contemplating retirement, telling Kerr and Myers during exit interviews he will take some time to decide.

West said after the title clincher that the team went through things behind the scenes that would be surprising if revealed.

"I don't know if anything would really blow your mind but it was a difficult season and there were lots of moments where it became more difficult," Kerr said. "I didn't think it was anything unusual given the state of our team, what we've been through and the length of this journey. Nothing to me was that, like, shocking but yeah we went through some stuff. ... For sure this was the toughest of the four (years)."

Myers also downplayed any tension or turmoil that took place privately.

"Certain challenges, some were apparent, some not," Myers said.

Leonard to meet Popovich for supermax deal

TEXAS—The ongoing saga between the San Antonio Spurs and superstar Kawhi Leonard appears to be reaching a tipping point.

And, according to a pair of reports, signs are pointing to an amicable resolution between the two sides.

The San Antonio Express-News' Jabari Young reported on Monday that Leonard and head coach Gregg Popovich are working toward a meeting to discuss Leonard's concerns and, more importantly, the $219 million supermax extension that's on the table.

The Express-News also reports that Leonard is "96, 97 percent" recovered from the quad injury that kept him out of all but nine games last season.

Basketball Insider's Steve Kyler, meanwhile, reports that Leonard expects to "hammer out an extension" with the Spurs and that he is "not looking for the door" despite ongoing reports of discord with the team and how his rehab from his quad injury has been handled.

Tensions between the two sides have centered on reportedly different approaches on how to handle the injury with Leonard working independently from the team in New York to rehab his quad during the season after the team cleared him to play.

Leonard was reported to be ready to return to the court multiple times during the season before he eventually missed the playoffs.

Popovich was often gruff when asked about Leonard's status, referring questions about his status to Kawhi "and his group." He also appeared to take a not-so subtle dig at Leonard during the playoffs when he praised LaMarcus Aldridge for "playing through adversity and being there for his teammates night after night after night."

But when one side is offering the talents of a bonafide superstar and the other is bringing $219 million to the table, a lot of differences can be set aside. As of now, signs point to that being the case.

Pistons land ex-Raptors coach Casey with 5-year deal

DETROIT (AP)—Dwane Casey lost his job in Toronto because the Raptors wanted to advance further in the playoffs.

In Detroit, it would be an accomplishment if Casey can simply get the Pistons into the playoffs.

The Pistons hired the NBA coach of the year finalist Monday, hoping he can help the three-time NBA championship franchise regularly reach the postseason and eventually compete again for titles.

"Dwane is one of the most successful and highly respected coaches in our league," Pistons owner Tom Gores said. "He's a great communicator and a leader who will connect with our players and accelerate their growth. Having spent many hours with Dwane over the last few weeks, I'm confident he is the right person to get us to the next level."

A month after being fired by the Raptors , Casey agreed to a five-year deal to become head coach of the Pistons, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Monday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the move, which was first reported by ESPN.

Casey led Toronto to a team-record 59 wins this year and helped the franchise earn the top seed in the Eastern Conference for the first time, a performance that won him coach of the year honors from his peers at the National Basketball Coaches Association. He had one year remaining on a three-year, $18 million dollar extension when he was fired shortly after Toronto was swept by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was 320-238 in seven seasons and is Toronto's winningest coach.

The Pistons said Casey has already started work, including meetings with players, and will be introduced at a news conference next week.

Detroit had been looking for a coach for more than month since firing Stan Van Gundy , who was also its president of basketball operations. Michigan coach John Beilein was a finalist for the job before withdrawing his name from consideration last week and San Antonio Spurs assistant Ime Udoka also was a candidate.

"I'm confident that this team has the pieces in place to compete at a very high level," Casey said. "There is a lot of talent, a solid core and some exciting young players eager to get better. We're getting to work right away on the things that will make us all successful."

Casey certainly has work to do.

The Pistons have made the playoffs only once in nine years after advancing at least to the Eastern Conference finals six straight years, winning the 2004 NBA title and falling a victory short of repeating as champions in 2005. They do not appear to have much flexibility to make significant changes this offseason.

Detroit acquired Blake Griffin in a blockbuster trade this past season and that wasn't enough to push Detroit into the playoffs. An injury to point guard Reggie Jackson derailed what looked like a promising season. If healthy, the Pistons do potentially have an intriguing nucleus with Griffin, Jackson and Andre Drummond.

"In our meetings he displayed great insight into what this roster can accomplish, and great passion about our city and the team's role in bringing people together," Gores said. "He's an outstanding man with impressive character. He embodies our culture and will be a great representative for our franchise."

The 61-year-old Casey is getting his third shot to lead an NBA team.

Repeat winners in NMIFA Spring Youth League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Familiar faces went up to the stage of Kanoa Resort lobby to receive awards for their outstanding performance in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

TanHoldings Football Club's Taka Borja and Kanoa FC's Paulynn Joyce, who took the Golden Boot awards in their respective age groups in the 2017 fall season, earned the same recognition in the recent season. Borja collected 24 goals to lead the boys U15 division, while Joyce's 25 topped the girls U16 age group.

In the Golden Glove category, Kanoa's Joe Emil Antonio and MP United's Floyd Muna and Christopher Aninzo were repeat winners, too. Antonio gave up 26 goals in the co-ed U13 division, while Muna yielded only 12 in the boys U15 age group. Aninzo's four goals was the least allowed in the boys U18 division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club vice president Lydia Tan, second left back row, joins MPU U18 players for a group photo after receiving the championship trophy and medals during the awards ceremony for the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the Kanoa Resort. Also in the photo are NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, left back row, and deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino, right back row.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, girls U16 Golden Boot awardee Paulynn Joyce and Golden Glove winners Theresa Toves and Irish Viray pose for a photo after receiving their trophies.

In the co-ed U13 Golden Boot race, there were two winners in MP United's Andrew Chung and TanHoldings' Mark Joseph Roque, who registered 20 each in the spring season. Chung took the same award in the fall season last year. In the boys U18, there was a new Golden Boot award recipient in Mark Esalan with the TanHoldings striker recording 14 goals.

Roque's brother, Mark Joshua of TanHoldings-2, notched the Fair Play award in the co-ed U13 division, while Kohtaro Goto, also from TanHoldings FC, bagged the same plum in the boys U15 division. Completing the list of Fair Play awardees were Viray in the girls U16 division and TanHoldings' Thaiphi Austria in the boys U18 age group.

Meanwhile, in the team awards, Kanoa gained two trophies after winning the boys U15 and girls U16 divisions, while TanHoldings-1 was handed the championship crown in the co-ed U13A, and MP United won in the boys U18 division.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta and deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino handed the trophies and medals to teams and players, while NMIFA president Jerry Tan delivered a brief message during the awards ceremony.

Tan congratulated the players and made special mention of their parents, who are always there to support their children.

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the first time so for them, it's all about gaining confidence and experience," the Northern Marianas Athletics official added.

The Commonwealth's open women's team will compete in a lot of run races with Sapong entered in the 100m and 200m and relays. Abrams is also doing the 100m plus the 100m hurdles, relays, and high jump. Pangelinan is the CNMI's third bet in sprints, as she will race in the 100m and 200m and also participates in the long jump and relays. Millare and Castillo are joining middle distance races (400m and 800m) with the former also doing the 1,500m run plus relays and the latter adding the long jump to her list of events.

Sappa and Quitugua will lead the CNMI in 100m and 200m sprints, while Esalan will take care of the 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000 events for the host nation. Schmidt and Ngirchongor are both entered in the 400m with the former also listed in the long, triple, and high jump, and the latter in the 110m and 400m hurdles plus relays.

For the throwing events (shot put, hammer, discus, and javelin), the Commonwealth will lean on Olopai, Gross, Ichiuo, and Libuw in the men's and Labausa in the women's.

In the U18 division, the three SIS students are racing in middle and long distance with Miyawaki having four events—400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000. Tan and Snyder are both entered in the 1,500, 3,000m, and 5,000m runs. Blake and Camacho will compete in throwing events, while Santos will do the three jumps, and Tyviean will have the high and long jump plus the 100m and 200m runs.

Meanwhile, some of the CNMI athletes' opponents arrived yesterday, while the rest of the participants for the June 14 and 15 tournament will be here today.

4 JR.

From Page 28

Kaga shut down FSM's Isabella Sipos yesterday morning and was going for a pool sweep in the afternoon against the latter's compatriot Niqui Peterson, who was winless after two games.

In Group B, Hye Jin Elliot is still in the race for one of the two semis berths after moving up to a 2-1 mark following her 6-1, 6-3 victory over FSM's Movida Jerry. Elliot needs to beat No. 2 and Guam's Kaia Malakooti today to march into the playoffs.

In the boys U16 singles, which has a round-robin format, Sam Ryu improved to a 2-0 record after defeating FSM's Karl Manlapaz, 6-1, 6-0, and was scheduled to face fellow CNMI player Daniel Heo in the afternoon match. Eugene Park also won yesterday against FSM's Jack Jack, 6-3, 6-2, to bounce back from his opening day loss to Andy Sipos. Park then dropped his second match on Day 2, losing to Guam's Marshall Zang.

In the girls U16 singles, which also has a round-robin format, Malika Miyawaki was 2-0 after yesterday's matches, as she swept Guam's Joycelyn Tenai, 6-0, 6-0. The other CNMI bet in the division, Maria Gregoire, dropped to a 1-1 card, as she was defeated by FSM's Anne Skillijng, 6-1, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in the U12 team event, the CNMI Boys remained undefeated following a 2-1 triumph over Guam Boys 1. The opposing teams split the two singles matches with the CNMI's David Kwon winning over Rhys Matanona, 6-1, 6-0, and the host's Johnny Jackson topping Anthony Gregoire, 6-3, 6-4. Gregoire then redeemed himself when he and Kwon beat the Guam pair in the deciding doubles game, 6-3, 6-2.

In the all-CNMI duel in the girls division, CNMI 1 blanked CNMI 2. Serin Chung and Helen Kim prevailed over Ye Jin Son, 6-2, 6-1 and Dana Lee, 6-3, 6-3, respectively. Serin and Kim then completed the sweep with a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 10-5 win in the doubles.

OL'ACES

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670 Sonics XVIII players contributed in the rally, which was capped by Jude Tengco's undergoal stab against two CT Law NMI Rollers for their 38-26 advantage, down to the last 1:28 in the match.

A layup from Aaron Ogumoro gave the CT Law NMI Rollers its first field goal in the fourth quarter. However, that failed to spark a late comeback and it did not help that the clock was not on the CT Law NMI Rollers' side.

Apasan paced the 670 Sonics XVIII in a low-scoring game with his 9 points, while Tengco and June Alipio added 7 each. Chris Arceo had double figures for the CT Law NMI Rollers after making 11, while Factor added 6, scoring the team's first point in their fourth-quarter meltdown.

In the second game, the Ol'Aces Real Deal proved to be to too much for the 670 Sonics XVI.

The Ol'Aces Real Deal secured the finals berth and extended its winning run to 13 games right at the end of the third quarter, as the pennant champion was in front, 57-17.

Micronesian Games-bound Dean Blake and Coby Santos teamed up in the Ol'Aces' easy win over the 670 Sonics XVI after recording 24 and 18 points, respectively. N-Nes Siech added 14 markers, while John Ichihara chipped in 9, and Kevin Kabiriel and E.J. Abejo tallied 8 apiece to back up the Ol'Aces' main gunners. No 670 Sonics XVI scored in twin digits, as the best that Clarenz Contreras could do was earn 9 markers.

First Game

670 Sonics XVIII 43—Apasan 9, Tengco 7, Alipio 7, Rafols 5, Itaas 3, Cobacha 3, Kapileo 3, Ordona 2, Manansala 2, De Guzman 2.

CT Law NMI Rollers 32—Arceo 11, Factor 6, Ogumoro 5, Valencia 4, Quitugua 4, Richardson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-10, 20-20, 23-25, 43-32.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 91—Blake 24, Santos 18, Siech 14, Ichihara 9, Kabiriel 8, Abejo 8, Sandalan 5, Peter 2.

670 Sonics XVI 33—Contreras 9, Galang 5, Dancel 5, Mendoza 4, Magat 4, B. Bernardo 2, Tabora 2, R. Bernardo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 32-15, 57-17, 91-33.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Group G:

Gear up for two-horse race

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune will run a series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia. Today, we are featuring teams in Group G)

MOSCOW (AP)—Belgium and England, that's the predicted results, in order, for the Top 2 spots in the group. Tunisia and Panama had the odds against them due to their lack of star players and shallow pool of backups.

World No. 3 (FIFA rankings) Belgium boasts its golden generation of players, hoping to finally make it to the semifinals of the World Cup with its talent-laden squad. England will lean on a young, promising crew to ease the pain of the series of heartaches it caused to its soccer-crazed people.

BELGIUM

It's time to deliver for a team that has featured exceptional talent over the past half dozen years but has yet to reach the semifinals of a major tournament.

It is widely acknowledged they have been held back by mediocre management. Now it is up to Roberto Martinez, a Spanish coach, to get the best out of this plethora of stars.

If you have Romelu Lukaku up front, Eden Hazard as a creative genius, and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois for a final lock on goal, the ingredients for success are there.

There are issues in defense. Central defender Vincent Kompany is as brittle as he can be brilliant and there are very few credible backups available for the likes of Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen.

KEY PLAYER: *Kevin De Bruyne* (Manchester City)—Overshadowed Eden Hazard at the 2014 World Cup, he has only grown in stature, especially since his move to City and his more withdrawn position on the field.

COACH: *Roberto Martinez* — The coach was a surprise pick for Belgium when it ditched Marc Wilmots after a disappointing Euro 2016. The Spaniard easily adapted to life in international management.

ENGLAND

The country that invented soccer no longer sits at the sport's top table.

Expectations in England have plummeted because of the national team's embarrassing performances in recent major tournaments —exiting the 2014 World Cup at the group stage and losing to Iceland in the round of 16 at Euro 2016.

Having the world's richest and most popular domestic league has had an adverse effect on the England team, whose managers have an increasingly shallow pool of top players to choose from.

A young squad will be taken to Russia, so getting out of the group is as much as can be hoped for.

KEY PLAYER: *Harry Kane* (Tottenham)—Emerged as one of the tops strikers in the world this year, scoring freely for his club in the Premier League and Champions League. Has 12 goals in 23 games for England.

COACH: *Gareth Southgate* —Skeptics are starting to come round to Southgate, who took charge in September 2016 despite having little top-level coaching experience but has shown he isn't afraid to make bold decisions.

TUNISIA

Unbeaten during its qualifying campaign, Tunisia is making a return to the World Cup for the first time in 12 years.

The Eagles of Carthage qualified for Russia ahead of Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, and Guinea and will take part in their fifth World Cup. They have never got beyond the group stage. With a new generation of players including Wahbi Khazri and former Monaco defender Aymen Abdennour, their main goal will be to win a game in Russia.

KEY PLAYER: *Youssef Msakni* (Al Duhail)—The 27-year-old forward played a crucial role in qualifying, scoring a hat trick in an away win to Guinea.

COACH: *Nabil Maaloul*— A former assistant under Roger Lemerre when Tunisia won the African Cup of Nations in 2002, Maaloul took over from Henri Kasperczak two matches into Tunisia's World Cup qualifying campaign.

PANAMA

A first-ever qualification for the World Cup earned Panama a national holiday.

The Central Americans made it to Russia in style, defeating Costa Rica, 2-1, in the final qualifier.

Panama has only 4 million people, but finished ahead of the United States, which has about 320 million.

Just an aside: Panama's national game is still baseball, but soccer is moving in.

KEY PLAYER: *Luis Tejada* (Universitario)—The striker has scored 43 goals for Panama.

COACH: *Hernan Dario Gomez*—The Colombia-born coach has worked his magic again. He got Colombia into the 1998 World Cup, and then did the same for Ecuador in 2002. Now it's Panama's turn.

FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
England	6	98	62	26	20	16	79	56	1.6	14
Belgium	14	51	41	14	9	18	55	66	1.1	12
Tunisia	52	7	12	1	4	7	8	17	0.6	4

MP : Matches played **GA** : Goals against
GS : Goal scored **APPS** : World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)
Note : Panama qualified to the World Cup for the first time

GROUP G SCHEDULE

Belgium VS Panama	(June 19, 1AM, Sochi)	England VS Panama (June 24, 10PM, Nizhny Novgorod)
Tunisia VS England	(June 18, 4AM, Volgograd)	England VS Belgium (June 29, 4AM, Kaliningrad)
Belgium VS Tunisia	(June 23, 10PM, Moscow)	Panama VS Tunisia (June 29, 4AM, Saransk)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Red Sox beat punchless Orioles in 12 innings

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Sports

Warriors will give Durant new deal, to re-sign Kerr

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Ol'Aces vs 670 Sonics XVIII

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces Real Deal and 670 Sonics XVIII marched into the finals of the boys U18 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after prevailing in their respective playoff games last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics XVIII was the first team to reach the title match following a 43-32 victory over the CT Law NMI Rollers in the opening semis tiff, while the Ol'Aces clobbered the 670 Sonics XVI, 91-33, in the other Final Four pairing. The Ol'Aces and 670 Sonics XVIII disputed the division championship last night, but results of the winner-take-all finale were unavailable at press time.

The 670 Sonics XVIII moved a win away from ruling the 12-team field, as it saved its best for last in their semis game against the CT Law NMI Rollers. Behind by a deuce at the end of the third period, 23-25, the 670 Sonics XVIII had a 15-1 scoring surge in the eight minute and change stretch of the final canto.

Lanky center Sean Apasan led the pivotal spurt, making 8 points, including three straight field goals. Four other

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics XVIII's Khristian Itaas, left, tries to dribble his way out of the defense of the CT Law NMI Rollers' Matthew Richardson during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Sam Ryu, seen here in action during a local tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts, won his second game in the boys U16 singles event of the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday in Guam.

4 jr. players secure playoff berths

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI junior players are assured of playoffs seats in the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships as they continued to perform well in the pool play of their respective singles event.

In the boys U14 singles, No. 1 seed Seung Jin Paik finished the elimination with a 3-0 and sealed the first playoff slot in Group A after beating the Federated State of Micronesia's Nolen Narruhn, 6-0, 6-1, at the Sheraton Hotel courts in Guam.

Only the Top 2 placers in each pool will move into the playoffs with Narruhn taking the other spot in the group after earning a 2-1 mark. Completing the division's quarterfinal cast were the CNMI's Andy Kim and No. 3 Daniel Kang, No. 2 Thomas Ysrael, No. 4 Dakota Gibson, and Aarman Sachdev of Guam, and FSM's Deavyn Etscheit.

Kang ruled Group C with his perfect 3-0 record, completing the sweep after downing FSM's Kigo Apis yesterday, 6-1, 6-3. Kim was ranked second in Group B, earning a spot to the quarterfinals and a 2-1 mark in pool play following a tough 7-5, 4-6, 10-8 triumph over Aiden Schembari.

In the girls U14 singles, No. 1 seed Coume Kaga is likely to move into the semifinals as she gained a 2-0 record in Group A with one game left in the elimination.

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26 to represent CNMI in regional track meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be counting on 26 athletes to win a handful of medals for the host nation in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 that will kick off tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The CNMI Team is divided into two groups—the one competing in the men's and women's open and the other in the U18 division.

World Championship veteran Zarinae Sapong will lead the open division squad, which also has Therize Millare, Antonette Labausa, Rachel Abrams, Jerlyn Castillo, Jamie Pangelinan, Trevan Quitugua, Mark Esalan, Gabriel Sappa, Nick Gross, Tony Ichiou, Ron Olopai, Douglas Schmidt, Geno Libuw, Neydreyton Skerei, Beo Ngirchongor, and Orrin Pharmin.

The U18 division team, on the other hand, is made up of Saipan International School students Tania Tan, Anika Snyder, and Rintaro Miyawaki, Ruschelle Valino, Cassandra Camacho, Kiana Aldan, They Tyviean, Coby Santos, and Dean Blake.

"I think we'll be right up there on the medal counts. I think our women squad will do well as usual," head coach Elias Rangamar said.

"For most, the tournament will gauge where they are at heading toward the Micronesian Games. We have some young talents competing for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coach Elias Rangamar, right, watches the CNMI's female runners take off from the starting block during a training session last Monday at the Oleai Sports Complex.